

"The blues, class 1, were chiefly Prussian blue, and contained no hurtful compound.

In the second class, or those apparently intended for ornament, but sold without restriction, and formed in all sorts of fantastic shapes, of eight forms of yellow, three contained chromate of lead, one of Naples yellow; one massicot or yellow lead, and three vegetable lakes of alumina and lime. All these were colored throughout, and contained moreover sugar, and the sulphate of lime or Plaster of Paris.

"The reds in this class were of six specimens, three vegetable lakes of alumina or lime, one chromate of lead, with a red vegetable lake, two red lead.

"The greens and blues were composed as I described in class 1.

"In the third class, the composition was precisely the same, and the proportion little different from class 2.

"The papers were next examined, especially those used for enveloping the sugar drops called "Kisses"—without exception the reds were colored by the red sulphuret of mercury, the yellows, by the chromate of lead, and many of the greens by verdigris, or the carbonate of copper.

"With respect to the quantities of the poisonous substances, I had not leisure to submit the various products to the tedious process of delicate weighing; moreover, it appears to be altogether unnecessary, as the mere presence of the minutest possible quantity of any such substance should not be allowed; I will merely remark that one concern in the city from which I have obtained the greatest number of poisonous specimens, employs eleven men daily in the preparation of these articles, furnishes immense quantities of them to country confectioners, supplies many of the minor shops in the metropolis, and, if I am rightly informed, exports to our foreign possessions to a considerable amount. Extent of manufacture always implies extent of sale, and in this case the ratio of the consumption of course equals both. I cannot, therefore, be accused of exaggeration, when I assert that millions of children are thus daily dosed with metallic and vegetable poisons, in minute quantities it is true, but in quantities dependent on their amount on the caprice of a workman or a machine, and sufficient in the minutest degree to exercise their peculiar insidious effects, if taken as a practice from day to day—neither are these effects chronic alone, for not long since an acute case of poisoning arising from the use of confectionery of this description occurred in the children of a highly respectable family in Southwark, and, on analysis, the comfits were found to contain minium or the red oxide of lead."

It would appear almost incredible, that England, whose legislation confers inestimable benefits on its subjects, and which sheds its radiance over the world, should, to this day, remain so far behind its continental neighbours, as to afford no protection against offences and abuses of the description now brought to public view. No subject can be of deeper or more vital importance, as that which is intimately connected with the general safety of the community; and none ought therefore more imperatively to call into action, the patriotic feelings of statesmen in every country—yet England and the United States are still the only nations in which a code of laws for the preservation of the public health, does not form a material part of the jurisprudence of the country—there are, it is true, in maritime towns, quarantine regulations to guard against the introduction of pestilential and contagious diseases from abroad—these laws include a few

provisos for the removal of any sources of infection that may exist, independently of those arising from shipping, but here they end. Both countries are alike destitute of a general medical police—and I fear much, that, notwithstanding the philanthropic exertions of Dr. O'Shaughnessy in bringing the subject of these articles before Her Majesty's government, both by submitting documents of the most irrefragable nature and authority—specimens of the poisoned substances and personal interviews with the Secretary for the Home Department, the evil has been left undisturbed, if not, without consideration, at least, as far as my information goes, without penal statute or municipal surveillance or restriction.

With regard to the right of England to export its manufactures to its colonies we can claim no interference save the exactions of certain imposts, but so far as those of a domestic character are concerned, the Provincial Legislature may exercise its control and authority, and by its enactments, render penal the manufacture and sale of such preparations of confectionery as are decidedly destructive and injurious to the healths of the inhabitants. It is therefore to be hoped, that during the next session of Parliament, the subject will engage the attention of government, and meet with that consideration from the Legislature, which its importance so justly demands.

Yamaska (near Sorel,)

15th June, 1846.

To the Editors of the British American Journal.

Mr. Editor,—Should you think the annexed case worthy of publicity, I shall feel obliged by your giving it insertion in your valuable Journal. It tends to illustrate with what scanty means an operation, generally considered difficult, can be performed in case of emergency.—I am, yours, &c.

GEORGE HOLMES, Surgeon.

Perth, C.W., April 21, 1846.

In 1840, I was visiting one of the back townships, about 30 miles from home, when I heard that a poor old man, residing a short distance from the house where I was stopping, was suffering from obstinate constipation, and was considered by his neighbours to be in a dying state. I volunteered my services, which were thankfully accepted. On my arrival at his house I found the patient, who was 63 years of age, in great suffering; the bowels had not been relieved for five days, and he was then vomiting stercoraceous matter, pulse 130, and occasional hiccup. On examination, I found a tumour, about the size of a small hen's egg, in the groin,* in the situation generally occupied in femoral hernia; rather tender

* The author does not state in which groin the tumour was situated.—Eps.