

tegument is improved, even at points where hypostasis has been at work. I inspected a cadaver night before last—a lady. The body was in splendid condition—skin white and clear, and all points of discoloration along spine, nates, posterior surface of thighs, neck, etc., etc., clearing up. The patient died of typhoid fever; *post-mortem* discoloration rapidly supervened, and decomposition was rife. All changes were arrested, the skin cleared up, and when I saw the body last its appearance had improved wonderfully. I am constructing an apparatus on an improved plan for the work of injection, and will, in a few days, have it out.”

Dr. Lowell will shortly be ready to work his new appliance, and offers to inject any body submitted to him by the profession. He thinks this method will give better satisfaction than icing remains, and will certainly be antiseptic. He is ready to use and apply it where the undertaker has hitherto applied ice.—*Proceedings, Brooklyn.*

**IMMEDIATE CURE FOR PILES.**—The operation is simply this. The piles being well down, they are punctured with the conical pointed end (which I have had made by Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer to fit on to Dr. Paquelin's gas cautery) to their bases, the number of these hot punctures varying with the number and size of the piles, a pile of the size of half a small walnut requiring two or three. A dull-red heat should be used, and the point gently rotated while being extracted, and not pulled out, because if this be done a portion of the eschar will be withdrawn with the instrument, and some hæmorrhage will follow. Should the disease be of old date, some of the piles will be quite hard; these I have pierced to their softer attachment, at the feeding veins of which they were clot-laminated, and even had fibrous varicose transformations. Ulcers and fissures in connection with the hæmorrhoids were touched with the cautery.

If this simple plan be properly followed, there is no hæmorrhage, but should there be slight oozing, a touch of the cautery at once stops it; the piles are then returned, and a half-grain morphia suppository introduced. The bowels are kept confined by a quarter of a grain of

morphia daily, by mouth or subcutaneously, for the first two or three days, and on the fourth or fifth day an enema-tube is gently introduced and a warm injection given and followed on the succeeding day by a laxative. The first two, or in some cases three, motions produce pain, but nothing as compared with that the patients suffered before the operation; and at the expiration of a week they are discharged, with such directions as to diet and regimen, that will promote the healthy function of the rectum, and which are known to all professional men.—*Dr. H. A. Reeves, in London Lancet.*

**COFFEE AS AN ANTIDOTE TO STRYCHNIA.**—Dr. Attilio Lelli having met with a case in which a large dose of strychnia was administered in coffee without fatal consequences, was led to institute some experiments to determine whether it possessed an antitoxic power against this drug. The animals employed were rabbits, and by comparative trials he found that a dose of five centigrammes proved fatal in a short space of time; when the same or a larger dose was given in a very strong infusion of coffee, he found that the coffee either acted as a complete antidote in preventing the poisonous effects of the strychnia, or that it materially diminished the violence of its action. The details of the experiments are given in the *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, edited by Prof. Carlo Livi, of which the first fasciculus of the third volume has just been issued.—*London Lancet.*

**SPORES.**—In microscopical examinations, spores may be confounded with fat globules, blood disks, nuclei of epithelium cells, pus globules, etc. The diagnosis can be absolutely determined only by the use of reagents. Spores are unaffected by ether, chloroform and alcohol. These dissolve fat cells and render epithelium transparent. Ammonia makes spores a little more colourless. It dissolves pus, and secretions of eruptive diseases, making a gelatinous mass. Hot solution of potash with alcohol dissolves impetiginous crusts, fat, pus, hair and epithelium. Acids destroy earthy particles.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*