

tained the following facts:—Until the age of 22, she was in good health, and of medium size—weighing 128 pounds. At that age, a young man into whose company she was often thrown, became the object of her tenderest affections—she loved him with all the devotedness of woman; they were engaged to be married, but from some cause they were disappointed in its consummation, and he left the country. She never again heard of him, and the consequence was, a severe shock to the nervous system. This happened near the period for the regular recurrence of her menses, and such was the effect of the disappointment on her system, that menstruation did not take place at the accustomed period. Another month passed, and still it had not appeared; two, three and four months, and the same condition existed; all medicine having no effect whatever on her.

About the fourth month she observed that she was becoming "fleshy," as she termed it. Six months passed, and she abandoned taking any more medicine, feeling no inconvenience whatever from her situation. At the expiration of twelve months her health remained undisturbed, and she had during the whole time gained in flesh; the menses, though, had not returned. Ten years elapsed, her health remaining unimpaired—slowly gaining flesh all the time, and the menses still absent. Thus she continued until the last two years when she was seized with asthmatic symptoms; these symptoms grew worse continually. Many remedies have been employed for their relief, but most of them have been without effect. She abandoned trying anything for more than three months, resigning herself to her fate; but about this time she began to feel much better. Before long she was not much troubled with the difficulty of breathing; but a very troublesome cough soon attacked her, and which has continued until she applied to me for advice. She is, indeed, not only an object of pity, but an object of wonder. She has not menstruated for eighteen years,—has never married,—never loved again,—never eat much,—and yet strange to say, she weighs near three hundred pounds. Her neck is scarcely discernible, from the amount of fat pushing down her face, and pushing up her shoulders. Her trouble now is a sort of smothered cough, which is much worse at night; there is also considerable difficulty in locomotion.—*Northern Lancet*.

## MATERIA MEDICA.

*On Medicinal Cigars.* By Dr. LANDERER.—The employment of various organic and inorganic substances of a volatilisable nature in the cigar form, has frequently been resorted to. In this way stramonium, cicuta, Raspail's camphor, and corrosive sublimate, have been used by means of tobacco deprived of its nicotine. The great efficacy of this last substance in ulcerated syphilitic throat, in Dr. Landerer's hands, has rendered him very desirous of extending this form of medication. He prepared cigars, therefore, by moistening tobacco freed from nicotine with tinct. of iodine, a solution of iodide of mercury in sulphuric ether, or a solution of iodide of potassium. He found these cigars of great utility in syphilitic ulceration of the throat and in ozæna. So, too, by moistening the tobacco with an æthereal solution of hyoscyamin, he has relieved most obstinate spasmodic cough without inducing any narcotism. Among other substances tried, he found a solution of creasote in spirit of wine and ether, a very useful form in scorbutic ulceration of the gums. Cigars moistened with *tinct. moschi* relieved hysterical and spasmodic coughs; and a case of severe hysterical paroxysms, occurring in an irritable subject, was advantageously treated by the alcoholic solution of the acetate of morphia. Cigars formed of this substance are also very useful in the toothache. Arsenical cigars, formed by steeping the tobacco in Fowler's solution, have also been employed; and Dr. Landerer believes that this form of medication might be extended to a great variety of substances.—*Buchner's Repert.*, B. vi, p. 347.

*On Ferruginous Preparations.* By M. MARTENS.—The following are the conclusions of an Essay recently read by M. Martens at the Belgian Academy of Medicine. 1. That as a general rule the lactate of iron is the best preparation. This conclusion, founded on the chemical fact of the conversion of the other preparations of iron into lactates in the stomach, was disputed as regards its therapeutical truth, by M. Lombard and other members, who denied that the lactate possessed any superiority. 2. It may be advantageously replaced by the carbonate given in water, or in pills made with honey, so that