

MODERATE DRINKING.—Sir Henry Thompson presided Wednesday night at a public meeting in Exeter Hall, called by the National Temperance League to discuss the question of moderate drinking. Sir Henry Thompson said he doubted whether in many cases, or perhaps in any case, alcohol was valuable in the dietary of healthy people. Indeed, he was not quite sure that to a great many people it was not injurious. He believed that alcohol had a certain value to the human body under very exceptional circumstances, but upon this fact he founded one of the strongest arguments for not bringing it into our daily food. Alcohol acted as a stimulant to the nervous system, and might, for instance, enable a pedestrian who had suddenly broken down to go on and win his bet, although he thus drew a bill on the future. Dr. B. W. Richardson said that his experience of moderate drinking was that it was the moral mainspring of all the drunkenness in the land, and of all the crime to which it led.—*British Med. Journal.*

PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN AS A DISINFECTANT.—The extraordinary powers of hydrogen peroxide as a disinfecting and oxidizing agent have been known for a long time, but the complicated and tedious method of its preparation has been a bar to its adoption on a large scale. Mr. Charles T. Kingzett, in conjunction with Mr. Zingler, have recently instituted some experiments, based on certain researches on the hygienic influences of the pine and eucalyptus trees, by which they ascertained that by exposing a mechanical mixture of water and turpentine to a current of air at normal summer temperature, a solution containing hydrogen peroxide and camphoric acid—the result of splitting up of the turpentine—may be readily obtained. The solution is an aqueous one, containing no oil of turpentine; it appears to be non-poisonous, and is absolutely without harm to textile fabrics. It does not injure carpets or furniture when applied to them, and is slowly but perfectly volatile. It is hoped shortly to produce large quantities on a manufacturing scale, for use in watering roads and streets, and in private houses, hospitals, and other localities where prompt disinfectants are required.—*From Pharm. Jour. and Trans., Dec., 1876, 451.*—*New Remedies.*

THE SUDDEN CHECKING OF OPIUM EATING.—The eminent Sir Robert Christison, after a large experience in the treatment of such cases, says that no good can be done by “gradual reduction,” and that it can be safely left off abruptly, even after many years’ indulgence. He recommends bromide of potassium to allay irritability, and chloral to procure sleep. For the first three days the patient suffers from great depression, loathing, sickness, and vomiting. By the fourth night he falls asleep and awakes refreshed, and in most cases the progress afterward is very satisfactory. There is, however, great danger of a relapse. Should diarrhœa supervene, suppositories of morphia should be ordered.

SALICYLATE OF SODA IN GOUT AND NEURALGIA.—The statements that have recently been made by several writers, that salicylic acid and salicylate of soda, when given in acute rheumatism, relieve the pain more certainly than the swelling, indicate the trial of these substances in affections where pain may be a chief characteristic. Dr. C. Cunzi (*Deutsche Zeitschr. für prakt. Med.*) recommends salicylate of soda as a means of rapidly relieving the pain of gout. In two cases of gout of the foot a single dose of one drachm was followed, in three hours, by complete cessation of the pain; the swelling, however, remained ten days longer. Dr. L. Hoffmann (*Berliner Klin. Woch.*) has found it remarkably efficacious in gout of the hands and feet, and relates successful cases of its use in sciatica, tic douloureux, and intercostal neuralgia. He recommends half a gramme to be taken in a gelatine capsule every hour.—*Br. Med. Jour.*

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIED.

On Wednesday, March 7th, at the Manse, Beaverton, Charles Thompson Noble, M.D., to Ann, daughter of the late Robert Johnstone.

On the 27th of January, 1877, at St. Peter's church, Camberwell, John Lassells Potter, eldest son of Dr. Potter, of Romford, Essex, to Kate, youngest daughter of George Wordley, Esq., of Larkens Farm, Orsett, Essex, England.

DIED.

On the 9th inst., Wilhelmina, daughter of Dr. Aikins, aged nine months and twenty days.