

age ability to a quart pot, and bitterly complained that the examining boards expected it to do the impossible feat of containing and retaining three pints—one of medicine, one of surgery, and one of midwifery. He pointed out, too, that the usual way out of this difficulty was for the student to go up and empty out his pint of surgery, coming down again for the remaining quart of medicine and midwifery. Paradoxical as it may seem, I must express my conviction that the three pints could be easily accommodated in the said quart pot, if the three liquids were not so frightfully adulterated with useless theories and vexatious hobbies. Here I am completely at one with the views expressed by Mr. Lawson Tait in his address on Surgery, delivered in July before the British Medical Association. In the present day our London examining boards demand from the student a knowledge not only of general medicine and surgery, but also of the specialties, which is vastly greater than was required ten years ago. The intellectual shelves of a man's brain are only capable of accommodating a limited number of knowledge bottles; and if increasing room is needed, it must be met by emptying out some of the old contents and by a process of careful selection in choosing the materials for new storage. It largely depends on the quality and nature of the final examinations whether our men are turned out over-stocked repositories of examiners' special fads and gifted exponents of the latest passing theory, or whether they be men trained in the habit of exact thought and rational practice, gifted in the use of the stethoscope, the scalpel, and the other armamentarium of their craft.

THE NASAL TWANG.—There is another legitimate field for the domain of laryngology, and we ought sooner or later to take upon ourselves, the burden of curing or attempting to cure, the widely prevalent American vice of talking through the nose. It is true we become more or less accustomed to this flagrant abuse of the vocal powers. But let us absent ourselves from our beloved country for a few weeks, travel across the sea, and there

hear for the time the soft and musical voices of our English cousins. Then it is upon our return that the American drawl—it is not a voice—of our beautiful young girl in society grates upon our sensibilities, and we feel as though the beautiful creature, and the thing by her side, that by courtesy is called a man, ought to be taken in charge by a doctor who will first cure the “nasal catarrh,” and then cure the “nasal twang.”—*Dr. Wm. H. Daly, in Medical Mirror.*

IMPURITIES UNDER FINGER NAILS.—The progress of bacteriology has shown that aseptic surgery means scientific cleanliness; the same lines of investigation show how very dirty people can be. Seventy-eight examinations of the impurities under finger nails were recently made in the bacteriological laboratories of Vienna, and the cultivations thus produced showed thirty-six kinds of micrococci, eighteen bacilli, three sarcine, and various varieties; the spores of common mould were very frequently present. The removal of all such impurities is an absolute duty in all who come near a parturient woman or a surgical wound. It is not enough to apply some antiseptic material to the surface of dirt; the impurity must be removed first, the hand antiseptically after. Some physicians, when intending to drain dropsical legs by acupuncture or other methods, are very careful to use antiseptic dressings, and in such cases have the feet and toenails purified and rendered aseptic as far as possible. It is sometimes said that the scratch of a nail is poisonous. There is no reason to suspect the nail tissue; it is more likely the germs laid in a wound from a bacterial nest under the nail. Children are very apt to neglect to purify their nails when washing hands; and this matter is not always sufficiently attended to among surgical patients. Personal cleanliness is a part of civic duty, and, as Dr. Abbott well expressed the matter in his address to teachers, should be taught to school children and insisted on in practice. The facts we have recorded might well form the text for a school homily especially when any epidemic was then neighborhood.