

and particularly addressed. There can be no doubt that the lives of all professional men in this country, as in all other walks of life, are made up of constant and continual struggles, and that the so-called battle of life has to be fought with more than ordinary energy and perseverance by medical men. But these figures appear most happily at the beginning of the winter's work, and show our neophytes that a fair and reasonable measure of success may be and is attained by those who enter the profession, and labour therein honestly, perseveringly, and well. Mr. Paget's paper is commendable, chiefly because it encourages all to work; because it shows that honest work results in fair success; and because it proves, as far as figures possibly can, that if a proper and persevering course of study be pursued, failure is much the exception, rather than the rule. And, as Mr. Paget very pertinently remarks, "nothing appears more certain than that the personal character, the very nature, the will of each student had far greater force in determining his career than any helps or hindrances whatever. The time and the place, the work to be done and its responsibilities, will change; but the man will be the same, except in so far as he may change himself."—*Lancet*.

New Uses of the Speculum Vaginae.

It was hoped that the mania for the abuse of the speculum would, ere this, have subsided, and its use confined to the legitimate purposes of practical medicine; but, as journalists, it becomes our duty to chronicle new achievements for this instrument.

A medical friend being called in consultation, in a case of protracted labor, asked the attendant physician the nature of the presentation. "Oh," he replied, "the head is presenting." Doubting the fact, our friend asked him how he knew that the head presented? "Why, I made an examination with the speculum, and saw the hair on the scalp." A female physician, on Howard street, has had an inspiration equally luminous, and, for the sake of the Medical Art, as well as humanity, we give it to the profession. A lady who was suffering from acute vaginitis, had been under her treatment for ulceration of the cervix uteri. She afterwards consulted a physician, whom she told that this woman had been *poulticing the uterus*, for several weeks, with flax-seed. With some incredulity, he asked how she did it. "It was stuffed through a speculum!"

At the risk of being thought irreverent, we cannot refrain from relating another application of the speculum, which could never have been contemplated by its inventor. A medical gentleman of this city, being in attendance upon a daughter of the Emerald Isle, during a protracted and difficult labor, gave his opinion at length, that the application of the forceps would be advisable, the head of the foetus being still above the brim of the pelvis. Fearing a fatal termination to the child, a clergyman was sent for by the friends, who desired to be left alone a few moments with the patient, but our friend claimed the right to be present, and remained to witness the following curious ceremony: An attendant introduced a tube, through which a

syringe full of water, in which the medical man had just washed his hands, was injected upon the head of the yet unborn child—with the usual ceremony of infant baptism. Query: Is not this what might be understood as being literally born a Christian?—*California Medical Gazette*.

A Valuable Cement.

Glycerine and litharge, mixed into a paste, furnish an extremely firm cement for iron and stone, as well as fastening iron to iron, and is said to be particularly adapted to fixing iron to stone, as for railways, etc. The material hardens very quickly, and must, therefore, be used at once. It is insoluble in water, and only attacked by concentrated acids. Articles joined with it can be used in a very few hours afterwards. Sandstone blocks, joined by this cement, have broken in a fresh fracture, rather than at the point of the union of the original surfaces. Very dry litharge does not form so good a cement as that which has absorbed a considerable amount of water. Only the purest material is to be used.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

Chinese Practice in San Francisco.

We are informed from a creditable source that a lady of this city, who consulted a popular Chinese mountebank on account of prolapsus uteri, was advised by him to have the top of her head shaved and put a blister on it, for the purpose of drawing up the womb to its place. This is an ingenious remedy, and demonstrates, more than anything we have yet seen, the superiority of Asiatic therapeutics. We would propose to those ladies who may incline to place themselves under the care of Dr. Li-po-tai, that they save the fee and the trouble by shaving and blistering the head on their own account. In many instances they would require no further treatment.—*Pacific Med. & Surg. Jour.*

—A materialist surgeon of Paris, lately showed to one of his friends one of his instruments, the handle of which was carved in bone. "Do you know," he asked, "of what this handle is made?" "Of ivory, I suppose." "No," said the doctor, while tears almost choked his voice, "it is the thigh-bone of my poor aunt."—*Med. & Surg. Rep.*

Möller's Cod-Liver Oil.

Dr. Sayre spoke of the extreme difficulty of getting any cod-liver oil that patients could digest. Of late years it had become almost impossible; and the reason lay in the objectionable mode of procuring and preparing the livers, of which he gave a graphic description. Some years ago he had brought from Newfoundland samples of a pure article made by Mr. Archibald, in the only way in which a pure article could be made—by cutting the livers into fine pieces, placing them in a warm vat, and letting the oil slowly render; no pressure must be used to mingle the fibre of the liver with the oil, and no high temperature. Archibald's oil was no longer obtainable; and the speaker had begun to despair of finding any equal to it. But he had, two years since, found an oil prepared according to the same process by Möller, of Christiania, Norway, which was perfectly pure, and in every respect all the