

even an exhaustive examination of the visible paper is often deceptive, since it is frequently found that a perfectly harmless paper is hung over an old arsenical one, and where it is suspected that illness arises from arsenical poisoning, the medical adviser should not be content with anything less than a sample of the paper or papers stripped off clean to the plaster. This can generally be done without disfiguring the room by taking it from behind the bed or some other heavy piece of furniture. We have seen as many as twelve coats stripped off in one mass, of which perhaps half would be arsenical.

THE first American contribution to medical literature was "A Brief Rule, to Guide the Common People in Small-pox and Measels, 1674," by the Rev. Thomas Thacher, first minister at the old South Church in Boston. So says Dr. Francis Bacon, in "Some Account of the Medical Profession in New Haven."

THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF MAN.—From a chemical point of view, says *Le Practicien*, man is composed of thirteen elements, of which five are [ordinarily] gases and eight are solids. If we consider the chemical composition of a man of the average weight of 154 pounds, we will find that he is composed in large part of *oxygen*, which is in a state of extreme compression. In fact, a man weighing 154 pounds contains ninety-seven pounds of oxygen, the volume of which, at ordinary temperature, would exceed 980 cubic feet. The *hydrogen* is much less in quantity, there being less than fifteen pounds, but which, in a free state, would occupy a volume of 2800 cubic feet. The three other gases are *nitrogen*, nearly four pounds; *chlorine*, about twenty-six ounces, and *fluorine*, three and a quarter ounces.

Of the solids, *carbon* stands at the head of the metalloids, there being forty-eight pounds. Next comes *phosphorus*, twenty-six ounces, and *sulphur*, three and a quarter ounces. The most abundant metal is *calcium*, more than three pounds; next *potassium*, two and a half ounces; *sodium*, two and a quarter ounces; and, lastly, *iron*, one and a quarter ounces. It is needless to say that the various combinations made by these thirteen elements are almost innumerable.

THE COMPULSORY SANITATION OF HOUSES.—According to the *London Times*, Mr. Dixon-Hartland's bill proposing a new Sanitary Board for London, now before Parliament, provides, in effect, for the compulsory sanitary inspection and registration of all buildings of whatever nature. The metropolis is, according to the scheme, to be divided into seventy districts, each of which is to be "under the control" of a sanitary surveyor. On giving a week's notice this officer and his assistants—the present sanitary inspectors—may enter a building and inspect all sanitary appliances, fittings, and drains; and should he find the building not in a sanitary condition he will point out the defects, and require them to be amended within three months. But should the building be found to be in a sanitary condition the surveyor will, if desired, certify this for a fee of a guinea. And without such a certificate no house is in future to be let. Apparently, however, the certificate would be valid for this purpose for as many as six years. A further provision is that no sanitary work is to be commenced until the plans have been approved by the surveyor; nor is any drainage work to be covered up until it has been examined, tested, and