

James' powder was an Italian nostrum, invented by a person named Lisle, a receipt for the preparation of which is to be found at length in Colborne's Complete English Dispensatory for the year 1756. Battley's sedative solution of opium is also said to have been of ancient origin, the prescription having come from Windelius, Lemort, or some other writer of the olden time.

No one would accuse Mr. Hilton of using other men's ideas; for his work on "Rest and Pain," I regard as Trousseau regarded "Graves Clinical Lectures." I would have it read and re-read as a priest reads his breviary; yet the principle upon which his plan of opening deep-seated abscess is based is an old one. Lisfranc, in 1829, in clinical lectures published in the *London Medical Gazette*, describes something very like this method. He cuts down to the deep fascia with his knife, then forces his director or probe to the supposed site of the pus, dilating the hole formed with another probe, instead of the dressing forceps recommended by Hilton.

On our library table downstairs you will see a pamphlet in which sanitary maxims are instilled into the minds of the populace by aid of rhyme. Such tracts are distributed about England and elsewhere on the same principle that an ingenious individual uses who attempts to imprint upon the plastic mind of the student the grand solemn truths of materia medica by rhyme such as—

"Six ingredients, you must know,
Compose the Tinct. Chinchonæ Co."

Again, we find such sanitary rhymes of very ancient date. I have before me as I write one of our Faculty Library's books, entitled "Regimen Sanitatis Salerni, containing most learned and judicious directions and instructions for the guide and government of man's life. Dedicated unto the high and mighty King of England, from that University, and published for a general good. * * * * * Printed by B. Alsop and T. Fawcet, dwelling in Grub-Street, neere the Lower Pumpe, 1634." The opening advice, in fact the preface, is as follows:

Anglorum regi scripsit Schola tota Salerni,
Si vis incolumen, Si vis te reddere sanum :

Curas tolle graves, irasci crede prophanum.
Parce mero, cenate parvum, non sit tibi vanum.
Surgere post epulas, somnum fuge meridianum,
Non nictum resine, non comprime fortiter anum
Hæc bene si serves tu longo tempore vives.

All Salerni schoole thus write to England's King,
And for man's health, these fit advises bring.
Shun busy cares, rash angers, which displease;
Light supping, little drinke, doe cause great ease.
Rise after meate, sleep not after noone,
Urine and Nature's need, expell them soone.
Long shalt thou live, if all these well be done.

Unfortunately the sanitary rhymes of 1634 would cause great scandal amongst the sanitary people of 1881, for listen to what is said about water drinking:

"He that drinks water when he feeds on meat,
Doth divers harms unto himself beget,
It cooles the stomache with a crude infesting
And voydes the meat againe without digesting."

In those days, I believe, when paterfamilias fell ill after a public dinner, he ascribed his nausea, his headache, his unsavoury mouth, not to the salmon as they do now, but to the nuts, else why this caution:

"A new layd egge, craves a good cup of wine
Drunk after it, it will the blood refine.
Nuts after fish, cheese after flesh is best,
In both these they are helpful to digest.
One nut doth well, the second doth offend—
Beware the third, it brings a deadly end."

I have now come to the end of a long, and it must be said, very rambling paper. I hope that I have shown you that there is some truth in the old saying that "There is nothing new under the sun," and also that I may have encouraged you to devote some of your leisure time to the old literature of our profession' by which you will not only gain some instruction, but considerable amusement.

PERIPHERAL PARAPLEGIA.

BY JOHN FERGUSON, B.A., M.B., L.R.C.P., EDIN.

There are a certain number of cases of paraplegia, which run a peculiar course, have many symptoms that are rather difficult to interpret, and, after a varying period of illness, eventuate in recovery, more or less complete in the major-