

other day I was taken there by Mr. Henry Lee, one of the Surgeons. As usual in a special hospital many of the most remarkable examples of syphilis and its consequences are always to be seen here. The ravages of tertiary syphilis are positively frightful to behold, and as they are intractable to treatment elsewhere, I may mention what accomplishes their cure here. It consists of the mercurial vapour bath used three or four times only, at intervals of a few days. Now mercury given internally is generally found to be pernicious in tertiary syphilis, aggravating instead of relieving the disease. It is not so when used externally in the form described, and Mr. Lee assures me that very bad cases are cured by this simple plan of treatment.

It is also applied to the primary and secondary forms as well, wherein no mercury at all is given internally, a few vapour baths sufficing to bring about a cure in a reasonable time. From four to six vapour baths suffice to touch the gums, according to the quantity of the calomel or cinnabar submitted to fumigation, varying from ten to twenty grains.

I may observe that they do not give any mercury at all internally at the Lock Hospital, its employment being wholly confined to the vapour bath. By imbibition through the skin, it does away with all the irritation of the internal organs consequent upon its administration by the mouth. In sloughing ulceration of the penis from syphilis, local calomel fumigations are applied to the part with the best results. This does not answer for sloughing from other causes, it must be syphilitic. Mr. Lee showed me a case in point, where there was destruction of the prepuce and part of the glans; the sloughing was quickly arrested by the means employed. I noticed two boys not more than fifteen years of age affected with syphilis: one had a specific induration at the side of the penis itself, with an absence of chancre.

A visit to the Lock Hospital will well repay any Canadian visitor to London.

We are having a most delightful summer, and there is very little sickness anywhere, and whilst I write, London is out of Town.

I must acknowledge the receipt of Dr. David's large heart, and thank him for so kindly responding to the request made in a former letter. It shall be brought before the opening meeting of the Pathological Society, when I have no doubt it will excite some attention.

LONDON, 15th August, 1861.

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#### REVIEW DEPARTMENT.

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**AET. LIII.**—*The Pathology and Treatment of Venereal Diseases, including the results of recent investigations upon the subject.* By FREEMAN J. BUMSTEAD, M.D., Lecturer on Venereal Diseases at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, &c., with illustrations on wood. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. Montreal: Dawson & Son, 1861. 8vo. pp. 686.

The foregoing admirable volume comes to us, embracing the whole subject of syphilology, resolving many a doubt, correcting and confirming many an enter-