

who took the Paris water from chalk districts instead of from sandy strata. It appears that a large percentage of French conscripts are rejected from soft water districts than from neighborhoods supplied with hard water; and Dr. Letheby adds to this the generalization—which may be of great importance if it is proved to depend on more than coincidence—that English towns supplied with water of more than ten degrees of hardness, have a mortality of four per one thousand less than those whose inhabitants use softer water. Other kindred points of great interest are raised by Dr. Letheby, such as the possibility of a connection between the prevailing diet of a country and the composition of its potable waters.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

Fracture of the Pericardium for Hydrops Pericardii.

The *British Medical Journal* records a case of acute rheumatism where blisters and the alkaline and opiate treatment were tried with no benefit. The pericardium was much distended, with acute pain over the region of the heart. Death seeming imminent, it was determined to try puncture, which was accordingly done, and about three ounces of pale pink fluid were evacuated. Immediate relief was experienced from the dyspnoea, and the patient was enabled to lie down; the respirations fell to 36 per minute, and the pulse to 100. In a little more than three weeks the patient was discharged cured, and was still well able to follow his employment two years after.—*Med. Record*.

Three New Anæsthetics.

Dr. Rabuteau (*Gazette Hebdomadaire*) describes 3 new anæsthetics with which he has made numerous experiments, viz.: Bromoform, Bromal, and Iodal. Bromoform resembles chloroform, but appears to possess some advantages over it in producing complete anæsthesia without causing profound sleep. Bromal differs from chloral in the substitution of bromine for chlorine. Its action in animals is similar to that of chloral. Iodal is also a powerful anæsthetic, but in moderate quantities it causes convulsions and death, producing congestion of the brain and spinal cord.—*Med. Record*.

Death from Chloroform.

The death from chloroform, recently occurring in University College Hospital, was in a man, aged forty-two, suffering from stricture and stone in the bladder. Clover's apparatus was used, containing thirty minims of chloroform in each thousand cubic inches of air. In five or six minutes the patient was insensible, and began to breathe stertorously. As the sound was being introduced the man's pulse suddenly became extinct, and the face

blue and pale as in epilepsy. Sylvester's method of artificial inspiration was put in force for twenty minutes, and galvanism was applied over the heart; but the man did not revive. The heart was found to be loaded with fat, and, under the microscope, a large quantity of interstitial fat was seen.—*Med. Press and Circular*.

Intussusception of Bowels treated by Inflation.

Dr. Wilks has had a case of intussusception of the bowel in a child six months old. A lump was felt in the abdomen to the left and above the umbilicus, which hardened when pressed upon. On passing the finger up the rectum, a round projection could be felt about four inches up, with a circular orifice in the centre. The finger, when withdrawn, was covered with blood. Dr. Wilks ordered inflation by means of bellows. Chloroform was given; an enema tube passed into the rectum, the other end being attached to the bellows. The colon was well inflated, and the lump disappeared for a time.—*Med. Press and Circular*.

Therapeutical Use of Arsenic in Phthisis.

The very favourable results which Dr. Moutard-Martin had derived from arsenic in the treatment of tuberculosis have led M. Nonat to try the substance in a large number of cases. He has administered the remedy under the form of arsenious acid, and in doses of about one-seventieth of a grain to begin with in pills. This dose was gradually increased every eight days by one seventieth of a grain, till the dose of one-twenty-eighth of a grain was reached per diem. In these proportions the medicament has afforded him good results in cases where tuberculosis had attained only the first or second stage, and presented no intestinal complication; for when vomiting and diarrhoea have set in, arsenic must be at once discarded. When phthisis is incipient, and when it is well circumscribed, M. Nonat has seen arsenic increase the appetite and strength of the patients; they gain flesh, look much better, and feel stronger and more cheerful. In such cases the medicament does not increase the pulmonary congestion, and indeed is attended by no inconvenience. The only counter-indication lies in the alimentary canal. In many subjects however, placed in the above conditions, arsenic, if it did no harm, failed to produce any benefit. (See *Lancet*, March 26, 1870.)—*Practitioner*, June.

Graduates in Medicine for 1870.

From the various colleges of the country there have been graduated the following number of Doctors in Medicine:

Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.,.....	163
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.,.....	113
Belleuve Hospital Medical College,.....	140
College of Physicians and Surgeons, N. Y. City,...	70
University Medical College, N. Y. City,.....	62
Toland Medical College, San Francisco,.....	9
Rush Medical College, Chicago,.....	69
Buffalo Medical College, Buffalo, N. Y.,.....	41