

advanced as a new and more simple explanation of the action of the substance named, than had been before suggested. That the modification of symptoms produced by the change of form of a simple amyl or ethyle compound into a nitrite, turned upon the introduction of nitrogen into the composition, and by this introduction the anæsthetic action is destroyed, and is replaced by disturbance of muscular action, especially of the heart. In this respect the nitrite compounds represent immediately, in an exaggerated degree, the action of strychnine, theine, nicotine, and analogous alkaloidal substances, of which nitrogen forms an elementary constituent.—*Medical Press and Circular.*

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THE COLOUR OF MAN.—In the Physiological Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. John Davey read a paper on this subject. After enumerating the varieties of colour of the human race, and their connexion with latitude and climate, he proceeded to the consideration of the probable causes to which the difference of colour was to be referred. Of these, he placed first exposure to the sun's rays; next, warmth of climate and an average high temperature throughout the year, under the influence of which there appeared to be a tendency to accumulation of colour in the system, as indicated by the little difference of colour of the arterial and venous blood under the exposure of a high temperature. He adverted to hereditariness or atavism as deserving of attention in considering the colour of races, and more especially its importance as to the great question of unity of difference of race *ab origine*; how, if climate should be found to have greater effect than blood in modifying colour, unity might be inferred, and *vice versa*.

NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM.—Up to 1864 there had been 7245 applications for places in this institution at Binghamton, from every State in the Union, and from Europe, Mexico, and the British Provinces, 520 of whom were opium eaters. There were 39 clergymen, 8 judges, 197 lawyers, 226 physicians, 340 merchants, 680 mechanics, 466 farmers, 240 gentlemen, and 805 women. One of the opium eaters, a lawyer, who had filled a highly responsible office, in one year drank 3200 bottles of M'Munn's preparation of opium. In one day he drank twenty bottles, equal to ten thousand drops of laudanum. Patients at this asylum are received for not less than a year, are watched, controlled, and medically treated. The expectation is that at least 70 per cent will be radically cured. It was stated at the recent Temperance Convention at Saratoga, that the names of 1300 rich men's daughters are on the list of applicants for admission to this asylum.