

**Six at a Birth.**

We recently noticed in the *New York Tribune*, and other papers, a statement that a lady at Pre-emption, Illinois, had become the mother of six children at one time. We wrote in amazement to one of our subscribers there, who asserts most positively that such was the fact, but adds the explanation, that the way it happened was that she married a widower with six children.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

**How to cure a Cold.**

The following is extracted from a lecture, by Dr. G. Johnson, the Professor of Medicine in King's College, and may prove interesting to our reader:—The popular domestic treatment consists in the use of a hot foot-bath at bed-time, a fire in the bed room, a warm bed, and some hot drink taken after getting into bed, the diaphoretic action being assisted by an extra amount of bed clothes. Complete immersion in a warm bath is more efficacious than a foot-bath; but the free action of the skin is much more certainly obtained by the influence of hot air—most surely and profusely, perhaps, by the Turkish bath. The Turkish bath, however, is not always to be had, and, even when available, its use in the treatment of catarrh is attended with some inconvenience. In particular, there is the risk of a too speedy check to the perspiration after the patient leaves the bath. On the whole the plan which bines in the greatest degree of efficiency with universal applicability consists in the use of a simple hot-air bath, which the patient can have in his own bed-room. All that is required is a spirit-lamp with a sufficiently large wick. Such lamps are made of tin, and sold by most surgical instrument makers.

The lamp should hold sufficient spirit to burn for half an hour. The patient sits undressed in a chair with the lamp between his feet, rather than under the chair. An attendant then takes two or three blankets and folds them round the patient from his neck to the floor, so as to enclose him and the lamp the hot air from which passes freely round the body. In from a quarter to half an hour there is usually a free perspiration, which may be kept up for a time by getting into bed between hot blankets. I have myself gone into a hot-air bath suffering from headache, pain in the limbs, and other indications of a severe incipient catarrh, and in the course of half an hour I have been entirely and permanently freed from these symptoms by the action of the bath.

Another simple and efficient mode of exciting the action of the skin consists in wrapping the undressed patient in a sheet wrung out of warm water, then, over this, folding two or three blankets. The patient may remain thus "packed" for an hour or two, until free perspiration has been excited.—*British Medical Journal.*

**Munich—Its Singular Laws and Customs.**

A writer in *Macmillan's Magazine* describes some of the vexations incident to the police restrictions in Munich, and adds the following:—

"There is a curious instance of meddlesomeness in the law in Munich which forbids a medical man to practice where he sees fit, unless the *Polizei-Herren* see fit also. The town is divided into dis-

tricts; each district has its fixed number of medical men, according to the population, of which there are stated returns. But, granted permission to kill and cure in a certain quarter, that is not all. The physician may not take a house too near his fellow-practitioners. He may neither set up next door, nor opposite, nor in the same street; the *Polizei-herren* step in and measure distances, and point out the streets in which he may choose his dwelling. If he objects to the streets pointed out they are mildly inexorable. Such is the law; they have no option; either those streets, *Herr Doctor*, or none.—*Toronto Leader.*

**A New Cement.**

The *Journal de Chimie Médicale* states that an excellent cement may be made by dissolving 1 part of amber in 1½ part of bisulphide of carbon. This liquid is applied by a brush to the surfaces it is wished to unite, and on pressing them together the cement dries almost immediately.—*Practitioner.*

**Anecdote of Dr. Jenner.**

The late discoverer of vaccination, having discontinued his professional visits to a patient on account of her improved condition, sent a couple of ducks to the mother of the convalescent lady, accompanying the present with the following note:

"I've dispatched, my dear madam, this scrap of a letter. To say that Miss Lucy is very much better: A regular doctor no longer she lacks, And therefore I've sent her a couple of quacks."

The lady addressed returned thanks with this:

"Yes, 'twas polite, truly, my very good friend, Thus 'a couple of quacks' to your patient to send; Since there's nothing so likely as 'quacks,' it is plain, To make work for a 'regular' doctor again."

*Med. Record.—N. Y. Med. Journal.*

**Obituary.**

Died, in Guelph, on the 13th inst., JOHN HOWITT, M. D., aged 43 years.

Thus it is our painful duty to announce the death of another fellow student, whose health had been feeble for many years, but whose life we all hoped, might have been long spared. It is said that while returning home for his Christmas vacation, from Victoria College, Cobourg, some twenty-three years ago, in a crowded stage, he gave up his seat to a lady, while he took one by the driver, where he became very cold; and thinking to warm himself by running behind the vehicle, was left behind on the road. Making his way to the next village with difficulty, and finding the stage had left, he was obliged to stay for the night, where he was forced to occupy a cold room, and (it is said) a damp bed, which hastened an attack of illness from which he never fully recovered, although after some time he was able to resume his studies.