

DR. FOOTE'S HEALTH MONTHLY.

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"The time has come when scientific truth must cease to be the property of the few; when it must be woven into the common life of the world."—Prof. Agassiz.

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THERE is quite an inquiry for our September HEALTH MONTHLY which gives our reasons for fleeing to Canada to print our paper. We can supply some two or three hundred copies yet. Those wishing to obtain one can do so by sending one (3c.) postage stamp. Let not the use of the participle "fleeing" mislead our patients. We use it in a figurative sense. We are at home in New York, attending to our professional business. It is only the HEALTH MONTHLY that has changed its residence.

Chronic Ills.

By this time many will have returned from the mountains or the sea-shore, more or less disappointed at the results. The family physician usually advises his get-no-better patients to try a change of scene and air. Some return with positive indications of improvement and feel quite happy about it. But large numbers also journey back to their homes very much disheartened. Having tried the old system of medicine and the hygienic influences of change without benefit, we trust it will not be considered obstructive if we invite such invalids to give us a trial. Consultations personally or by mail cost nothing and no one is obliged to be at any expense unless, after mature consideration, it is thought advisable to try a new system of medicine. Our remedies are not such as are usually obtainable at drug-stores, being almost wholly of a botanical character. Then, in addition to the fact, that our remedies differ from those which are usually resorted to, we think our experience in treating chronic difficulties ought to count for something. Giving special attention to any class of maladies for twenty-five or thirty years, ought to sharpen one's wits very considerably in managing them. A list of questions will be mailed free to those who wish to consult us.

The Medical and Surgical Treatment of President James A. Garfield.

SINCE the fatal shot was fired that resulted in the death of President Garfield, the medical and surgical treatment of the case has afforded a never-ending subject of comment. This was a matter of course so long as the result was uncertain, and seemed to depend upon the efforts of the attendants, but the final dreaded result simply intensified the discussion, and all sorts of views were expressed, many asserting that the treatment had after all been the best possible while others regarded it as the worst possible.

Dr. Hamilton, one of the consulting surgeons, and a very skillful man, says, "I am prepared to affirm that surgery has no resources by which the fatal result could have been averted," and most of his confreres seem to endorse this view of the case. If there be any prominent dissentients they will probably be allowed an opportunity to present their views in the trial of Guiteau. What Dr. Hamilton has said may be strictly true (we shall give our view further on) and yet the treatment employed have been very faulty. The discussion of the details of the treatment will doubtless interest physicians for years to come, and if it be shown that mistakes were made, suffering humanity may largely profit by the knowledge of them.

Though the case was one demanding mainly surgical treatment, we think the history of the case shows that a good medicine man may be a useful counsellor in a surgical case, and this President Garfield evidently did not have. Surgeons are not apt to be well qualified as medical practitioners, and surgeons did direct the medical treatment of the President. Thousands of ultra-temperance folks denounced *in toto* the administration of liquors in any form, but they all had more prejudice than medical experience, and we should not join in their cry. Some physicians of high standing were heard to say that not one-fourth the amount of alcoholics was used that ought to have been. Their sentiments we do not echo. From what we could learn by imperfect newspaper reports, we should think that the food and stimulation had been judiciously regulated.

Until a full report has been rendered of the conduct of the case, the medical treatment cannot be known well enough to criticize, but if common reports were true, we think there was altogether too much use of opium and quinine. The heroic old-school has in time been compelled to relinquish its abuse of the lancet and mercury, but it has yet to learn that quinine and opium are not necessarily of service in *poisonous* doses, because the patient is very sick.

We have known of two very severe cases of septicæmia, lasting months, that recovered by mild homeopathic treatment, and we don't believe they would have done as well if the blood poison had been actively fought with huge doses of quinine, or aggravated by narcotic doses of opium. There are remedies which can be safely employed to disinfect septicæmia, but whether they were used in the case under consideration