

secure the very highest talents, the most profound learning, with the most fully demonstrated capacity for teaching. Make the salaries of the professors large, and not to depend upon the number of students; and let the Federal Government assume a proper share of the expense incurred.

The number of these schools may be multiplied as experience may demonstrate their superiority and necessity.

Our present medical schools, and such as hereafter obtain their charters from State governments, may adopt their own regulations, and such as do not conform to the National standard will either become tributaries or preparatory schools to the National universities, or dwindle into merited neglect.

I am persuaded that such assistance on the part of Congress can be obtained. I think that a committee could demonstrate, that of the vast amount of labor and money expended annually for the public good, a portion could not be better bestowed for the welfare of humanity and the interests of American civilization, than in creating and upholding one or more universities which will perfect the object for which this Association was organized. Such reforms have not been elsewhere effected except through governmental interposition, and our own experience has amply shown that it is vain for us to hope for them through any other means.

I am perfectly well aware that any plan looking to the General Government for sanction and support has its embarrassments, and that it will be opposed on the ground of incompatibility with republican institutions; but I do not doubt that all objections can be fully answered. The most moderate view taken of the offices of government specifies *protection* as its main end, and where, if not here, is protection demanded? Utilitarianism proclaims its conquering motto in the words, "The greatest good to the greatest number;" and when, if not here, has the motto a consummate application? The recent changes in political science, as well as the practical revolutions in the institutions and relations of the age, show clearly enough that whether for good or ill, governments are becoming more direct representatives of the prevailing public opinion, and are acting more immediately from the popular heart. Tell me how this government could more effectually permeate our homes, our tenderest sentiments, our truest earthly well-being than by bending its mighty aid to a measure so fraught with patriotic philanthropy? No profession has a sublimer human ideal than ours; none comes closer to the daily evolutions of Providence; none touches the individual and social happiness of men at so many points; and yet, standing in this high relation, it is almost alone in the facility with which ignorance may enter and work its mischief.

#### Cure for Snake Bites.

The London *Medical Gazette and Times* quotes this case:

A girl, named Isabella Mellross, aged 14, had when drawing water from the hole, been bitten on the extremity of the last phalanx of the little finger of the right hand by a carpenter snake, which had coiled itself round the cord of the ascending bucket. Dr. Barnett, who was sent for, found that the

mother had excised the bitten part, and put a ligature round the finger immediately, and given about two ounces of gin. The girl was being walked about between two others. Countenance swollen and dusky, conjunctiva much injected, cornea glassy, pulse small and slow, breathing also slow a complete state of stupor, from which with difficulty he could only partially rouse her and obtain an incoherent muttering reply to a question; if the support was withdrawn she sank on to the floor. Dr. Barnett injected fifteen drops of solut. ammon. into the median vein of the injured arm, also gave one drachm of sp. ammon. co., and washed the wound with solut. ammon. In a few minutes she became violently excited, laughing, crying, singing, biting, and throwing herself about so much as to require two persons to restrain her. The patient took five doses of brandy (three drachms) and ammonia during the afternoon, and by seven the excitement had subsided, consciousness was restored, and she was pretty well. The very next afternoon the same girl found a snake basking in the garden; she watched the brute and called for her mother to come and kill it, which was done: whilst she was stepping back out of the way, two snakes issued from a bush, and one of them bit the girl on the hand. Excision, ligature, gin, and ammonia were administered by the mother, and fifteen drops of liq. ammonia were injected into a vein at the elbow by Dr. Barnett. No symptoms of snake-poisoning occurred, however, although the patient suffered severely from the shock and fright. The cases are published in the *Melbourne Argus*. We would remind our readers of the possible share, as suggested by Dr. Weir Mitchell, which the large doses of alcohol may have had in generating the symptoms.—*Med. & Surg. Reporter*.

#### Purpura Hemorrhagica rapidly cured by Perchloride of Iron.

By DR. BAUDON.

[*Bull. Gén. de Thérapeutique, February 29, 1868, p. 174.*]

The patient, a girl 16 years old, menstruating irregularly, had the first crop of purpuric spots appear on October 23d. They continued coming out for several days, and when Dr. Baudon was called (October 26th) he found purpuric spots all over the body, on the tongue, the lips, the trunk, and extremities, reaching the diameter of six and eight centimetres on the thighs and legs. Pressure produced no effect upon them. The pulse was feeble, gums bleeding, and the discharges from the bowels were bloody. The patient was put upon sixteen drops a day of the solution of the perchloride of iron, increased in two days to thirty drops. The gums were washed with a mild solution of perchloride, and a course of good feeding and tonics was instituted. The results of treatment were certainly most rapid. At the end of two days the gums ceased bleeding, and there was no more blood in the rectal discharges, while at the end of seven days from the commencement of treatment (the perchloride being reduced in dose during the last few days) the patient seemed entirely restored. Pulse and heart natural, and "the ecchymoses are effaced to such a degree, that it is only with difficulty that a trace of them can be discovered."—*New York Medical Journal*.