

those organs and themselves (as cubebæ stimulated the kidney) but excite their actions indirectly, evolving for their use, from the elements of the blood, a larger proportion of that which it is their normal function to eliminate, and (unlike those evacuative drugs which effect their purpose solely by reason of their local affinities) these *catalytic* medicines, if I may venture to call them so, do not merely add themselves to the excretion which they provoke, as nitrate of potass adds itself to the urine; for no quantity of mercury mixed with saliva would render that fluid foetid.

QUESTIONS FOR A CONCOURS IN BELGIUM.

THE Belgic Academy of Medicine have proposed the four following questions for a *Concours* :—

1st—To expound the causes, symptoms, character, and treatment of the diseases peculiar to workmen in potteries. Prize, a gold medal, valued at six hundred francs.

2nd—To expound, according to scientific facts, and by new experiments, the theory of poisoning by contact of surfaces. Pyæmia is included in this question. Prize, a gold medal, of the value of six hundred francs.

3rd—To give the history of epizootic pleuro-pneumonia, its causes, and the best means of prevention. Prize, a gold medal, valued at eight hundred francs.

4th—To trace the medical history of carbuncular diseases, in the different forms under which they attack domestic animals; also, the part which may be performed in their production by peculiarities of the soil, and the peculiar cryptogamous plants which attack their provender.

SURGERY.

ON EXCISION OF THE OS CALCIS.

A PAPER READ TO THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

By H. M. Greenhow, Esq.

Operation on the ankle-joint is a subject which at the present time bears much interest in the minds of surgeons. The cases narrated by Mr. Greenhow afford proofs of the advancement of surgery. All terminated successfully, though difficulties arose, to be contended with in the after treatment, which rendered their happy conclusion proofs of the operator's skill.

"CASE 1.—Henry H.—, aged 20, pitman, admitted into the Newcastle Infirmary, June 15, 1848. Eight weeks previous he had received a wound from a nail running into the left heel. Abscesses had formed and been opened, one of which continues to discharge. The integuments are much swollen and indurated, and fluctuation is felt below the outer ankle. The joint admits of easy motion without pain. Abscess opened and poultice applied. As the constitution was deranged, and the nights sleepless, opiates and other suitable remedies were prescribed.

On August 15th the operation was performed.

22nd.—Erysipelatous inflammation extending to the knee; wound sloughy; the ligatures have come away; feverish, with slight delirium at night.