

## Periscopic Department.

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### MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

*A Lecture on the Proper Method of Treating Tapeworm. Delivered at the Middlesex Hospital, Wednesday, December 10th, 1873. BY T. SPENCER COBBOLD, M.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., Lecturer on Parasitic Diseases at the Hospital.*

GENTLEMEN,—The treatment of that common form of helminthiasis technically called "tapeworm" unfortunately constitutes one of those departments of the healing art, about which people generally suppose that little or nothing need be said. Excellent practitioners will tell you that the administration of turpentine and castor oil, or the giving of half a drachm of the ethereal extract of male fern, suffices to dislodge the parasite; and, should the worm unhappily return—which is usually the case under such a rough-and-ready mode of treatment—all that you have to do is to repeat the remedy until the entozoon is finally destroyed. This kind of advice has the merit of being delightfully simple; but I have no hesitation in saying that in the majority of cases, the practical results following its adoption are eminently unsatisfactory. I am not stating that the particular drugs in question are inefficient; on the contrary, viewed as tæniacides, I believe them to be superior to kousso, areca-nut, and other more or less well-known vermifuges. What I contend for is that, although in a small proportion of cases thus treated you may have the good fortune to be successful, yet, in by far the greater number of instances, the parasite will return, because neither the head nor even the neck of the worm will have been dislodged.

If I read the moral of professional conduct correctly, it