

(which has been taken to be a leg) having a humerus, elbow, lower arm, and a partial hand terminating in one finger. This possesses power of motion, and opens and closes with the child's will. Passing the finger over the spine, it is found highly sensitive and easily disturbed. When nursing, the children lie in the mother's lap so as to be able to take each a breast and nurse at the same time, with the legs extended out in front of the mother, and the rudimentary arm lying closely pressed to the back and finding accommodation in the space between the mother's knees.

Looking at them, at first glance they appear as if a perfect child were on the left side, lying in a bent position with another child engrafted on its right side, and becoming blended into one below. They are now being exhibited in Montreal as a natural curiosity, and the fatigue entailed may prove disastrous to their health, and thus the father may find he has killed the "goose that lays the golden egg" by exhibiting them prematurely.

#### PREVENTION OF OBESITY.

The part which water plays in producing increase of adipose tissue in the human system can scarcely be over-estimated, for without a liberal supply of this important fluid it is impossible to become fat. A liberal supply of the carbonaceous elements of diet are supposed to induce obesity, but this would only produce derangement of the digestive organs without having its due effect in producing fat, unless accompanied by the needful supply of water, and it will be invariably found to be a fact that great water drinkers are prone to become fleshy. This is the fact with respect to both man and beast. In fattening animals the more water they can be induced to drink, as every farmer knows, the easier and more rapidly are they fattened, while observation proves that fat men and animals are always great drinkers of water or some of its solutions, and small eaters of solid food; on the contrary lean people and animals are small drinkers and great eaters.

Now applying these observations to the human system it will be readily understood that using the excessive quantity of carbonaceous food as is the custom of most persons, the additional chemical elements furnished by the water, at once facilitate

the metamorphosis into fat in the system. And when unused for the purposes of combination or when its change is retarded by the presence of the small quantities of alcohol present, as in lager beer, ale, &c., fat is deposited and the person becomes obese. It follows then that abstinence from water or rather from fluids, generally is the first requisite in the prevention of obesity, or the reduction of weight, when this is desirable. Mental and bodily activity are also unfavorable to the deposit of fat in the system. But, although lager beer drinkers and gourmands are liable to form fat, as do the servants on sugar plantations during the sugar season; yet it is well to remember that it is not necessary that people should be beer drinkers to become fat, and that the free imbibition of water is sufficient for the purpose.

#### HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, HALIFAX.

We have just received the Report of the Medical Superintendent of this asylum, for 1877, from which we take the following:—In hospital 1st of January 337; admitted during the year 94; discharged cured 48; relieved 7; died 25; remaining in hospital at end of year 351. This gives a mortality rate of 5.8 per cent, and a recovery rate of 51.06 on the admissions. The recovery rate is most satisfactory in connection with this institution and has been equally high for many years past. Dr. DeWolf has been connected with this asylum for the past 20 years, and we regret to learn that he has resigned the superintendency in consequence of some charge of "neglect as to measures to ensure cleanliness, and dishonesty in the administration of rations," brought against the management, as stated in the report of the committee of enquiry. Dr. DeWolf positively denies the former charge, and if the latter be true, the commissioners are to blame. But what Dr. DeWolf complains of most—and he certainly has good ground of complaint—is, that he has not had an opportunity "of appearing before the tribunal which condemned him." It can hardly be possible that the Government would perpetrate so glaring an act of injustice as to condemn a man unheard. If so it must lose all claims to respect, and take the consequences of the reaction which will certainly be produced, by any injustice done to an old and faithful servant.