

The chemist having once made his experiment with a fluid, has done with it, he cannot repeat it, nor can he demonstrate the changes that have taken place in the same substances a second time. Not so with the microscopist; he can examine the same drop with powers varying from the lowest to the highest range, and with different intensities and varieties of light and shade.

It may be urged by those who have not kept pace with the progress of modern science, that the indications furnished by the microscope are fallacious; that much discrepancy exists as to the results of its use in the elucidation of physiology. But they merely speak of the state of that science when its doctrines were enforced on their attention; they do not express its present condition for we find men at work, in all parts of the civilized world, with instruments, constructed on sound principles, producing results, often exactly the same, though their labours have been carried on in ignorance, that others were toiling in the same field. Again, we see the London physiologist corroborating the doctrines promulgated at Berlin and Vienna, and *vice versa*. These facts are sufficient answers to those, who, too lazy, indifferent, or incapable, affect great reluctance in admitting the utility of the microscope in practice. It is true, that like the stethoscope, we shall have many pretenders to a knowledge of its powers—many who, without instruction or adequate study, will affect an intimate acquaintance with the details of its employment—many who will undertake to teach, before they have entered upon the proper track to learn—and no doubt, we shall have, as in the case of the stethoscope, those who, without study, without opportunity for learning, without even having examined a single substance microscopically, will strive to undervalue its revelations and ridicule its pretensions.

But we are not without evidence, that the same men, who cried down the stethoscope, (or neglected its study,) pretended to be shocked at the indelicacy of the *speculum vaginæ*—is it not natural to presume, that they will sneer at the microscope? It is not for such scoffers at science that I have made the present communication, but for that large class of practitioners throughout the country generally, whose desire for knowledge, and zeal in its acquirement, are exemplified, not only in the patronage they bestow on this Journal, but also in the support they have given it, by their numerous and valuable contributions.

In the preceding remarks, I do not lay the least claim to originality. My object has been, to encourage others to avail themselves of a means of diagnosis which I have found most valuable, and I thought this end would be best attained by introducing a few cases selected at random, illustrative of its utility.

The reader is not to conclude, that because I have not noted down the chemical analyses in the above cases, that I neglect or undervalue this aid in diagnosis—far from it. The gentlemen who attend my clinique at the Montreal Hospital, are well aware, that I attach a great deal of importance to this branch, and that I lose no opportunity of enforcing its practice upon their consideration; but I have not entered into these details on the present occasion, as my object has been, to introduce my readers to a more simple and exact method of analysis.

APOPLEXY FROM THE RUPTURE OF AN ANEURISM OF THE ARTERIA CEREBRI MEDIA.

By E. M. HODDER, C. M., Toronto.

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Master H., æt. ten years, fair complexion, and highly nervous temperament, received a severe shock at about half-past eight o'clock, p. m., on the 4th November last, in consequence of a fire, which at the moment was supposed to be in the building in which his father had his offices. The child had always been observed to become highly nervous whenever the alarm of fire was given. He had a largely developed head, pale countenance, a somewhat delicate constitution, and generally a depraved appetite, preferring crude vegetables and unripe fruits, to more wholesome food.

In consequence of this, he suffered occasionally from derangement of the stomach and bowels, always attended with severe headache; but, an occasional emetic and purgatives relieved him in a day or two.

Three or four weeks prior to the present date, he had had an attack as above described, during which time he complained very much of his head, but for the last fortnight he had appeared in perfect health.

On the alarm of fire being given, he ran into the street, but returned immediately to the house and watched the progress of the flames from a bed-room window; in three or four minutes he gave a sudden and violent scream, complaining of acute pain in the head, behind the left eye; the pain continued some minutes (two or three) during which time he uttered frequent screams.

He was taken down stairs to the sofa by his mother, but finding himself uncomfortable there, he walked into the next room, and was assisted on to the bed. His mother ran out of the room for a glass of water, and upon her return found that he had fallen off the bed, and was completely insensible.

Drs. Rolph and Rankin were the first medical men who saw him; he was still insensible, the surface of the body cold, pulse very slow and thready, in fact, scarcely perceptible, as were also the carotids; the right pupil