

PURGATIVES.—In the treatment both of acute and chronic diseases it is all important to attend to the condition of the alimentary canal. We will be disappointed in the effect of our remedies if this be not first brought into a proper state for their reception. Cinchona and wine are the proper remedies, for instance, for the weak rapid pulse, the yellow pasty tongue, and the low inflammation of the skin in erysipelas; but if we give these remedies without clearing away the accumulated epithelium from the stomach and bowels, they are quite thrown away: the circulation continues as weak as ever, and the patient goes on advancing towards death. But if we get a purgative to act, and are then in time with the alcohol and bark, the corner is turned, and every change that takes place is a change towards health. And an efficient dose of salts and senna by mouth or rectum will frequently have a most wonderful effect in inducing sleep in delirium tremens when opiates prove utterly powerless.

But this rule for purging does not apply to every form of disease, for it would prove extremely injurious in cases of pneumonia and low fever.

In bringing our selections to a close, we cannot but feel how imperfect has been the attempt to give anything like a synopsis of the contents of this excellent work. And we look with regret at the numerous practical chapters and original remarks left entirely unnoticed, remarks so necessary to us as medical men. But we trust that these that have been made will induce our readers to do as we have done—to read it thoroughly for themselves.

MICROSCOPIC USE OF MAGENTA DYE.—Magenta dye can be employed in microscopic research to great advantage, to tinge the blood globules or animal cells. It causes unclear structures to be distinctly displayed.—*Annual of Scientific Discovery.*

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL TIMES.—We regret to announce the suspension of this valuable journal for a season. Its loss in the meanwhile is creating a sad vacancy in the periodical medical literature of the day. We shall hail its reappearance with pleasure.

To Correspondents.

To Bleach Sponges. Wash them well in hot, weak, soda-lye; and then steep them in a bath of weak muriatic acid and water, adding a drachm of hyposulphite of soda for every four ounces of the acid employed.

Dr. R.—According to our present law (10th and 11th Vict., cap 26, sec 9), a license to practice medicine, surgery, and midwifery in Upper Canada, enables its holder to practice legally in Lower Canada, and to recover debts in a court of law, and vice versa.

X.—In Montreal as in other large places, either in America or Europe, there is plenty of room for physicians of superior ability. But those that settle here must expect but little encouragement from their brethren, so many of whom are constantly ignoring the ordinary rules of professional etiquette among themselves, and are particularly forgetful of them when holding consultations with strangers.

Superior Cold Cream.—Oil of sweet almonds, 8 oz.; spermaceti, 1 oz.; white wax, 1 oz.; rose water, 2 oz.; orange flower water, 1 oz.; glycerine, 1 fl. oz.; borax, 1 drachm; otto of roses, 20 drops. Melt the spermaceti and wax together in a water bath, add the oil, and continue the heat till liquid, then strain, add the other ingredients, first dissolving the borax in the rose water, and whip the whole into a cream. This is a much better receipt than the one published in our last.

Christison's Cough Remedy.—Syrup of squilla 2 oz.; peppermint water 2 oz.; ammoniated tincture of opium 4 oz.; compound spts. lavender 4 oz.; syrup 1 oz. Mix. Dose a tablespoonful three or four times a day. Dr. Christison says that he knows of no combination equal to this as a calmative expectorant in catarrh and phthisis.

Chemical Food.—This is the compound syrup of the phosphates, and we give you Parish's receipt from his late work

on pharmacy, which we consider to be the best. Take of sulphate of iron 10 drachms; phosphate of soda 12 drachms; phosphate of lime 12 drachms; glacial phosphoric acid 20 drachms; carbonate of soda 2 scruples; carbonate of potash 1 drachm; bruised coccoluth 2 drachms; sugar 2 lbs. Av.; orange flower water 1 oz.; muriatic acid, water of ammonia, and water, of each a sufficient quantity.

Dissolve the sulphate of iron in 2 oz., and the phosphate of soda in 4 oz. of boiling water. Mix the hot solutions, and wash the precipitated phosphate of iron until the washings are tasteless.

Dissolve the phosphate of lime in 4 oz. of boiling water, and add sufficient muriatic acid to make a clear solution; when cool, precipitate the phosphate, with water of ammonia, and wash the precipitate.

To the freshly precipitated phosphate, add the phosphoric acid previously dissolved in a pint of water; when clear add the carbonates of soda and potash, previously dissolved in a wine-glassful of water; and afterwards redissolve any precipitate formed by means of muriatic acid.

Next add sufficient water to the mixture to make twenty-two fluid ounces, then add the sugar, and, towards the last, the coccoluth; dissolve, in an enamelled vessel, by the aid of heat, strain, and when cool, add the orange flower water. As thus made, each teaspoonful contains about 2 grs. phosphate of lime, 1 gr. phosphate of iron, and fractions of a grain of phosphates of soda and potassa, besides free phosphoric and hydrochloric acids. The solution is perfect, the taste agreeably acid, and the flavour pleasant. The disposition to precipitate a bulky sediment of the insoluble phosphates is one of the greatest annoyances in this preparation, when made on a large scale, and can be obviated less by substituting muriatic acid, for a suitable portion of the phosphoric acid used, taking care to separate the liquid into two portions, and to add the carbonates of soda and potash to that consisting exclusively of the phosphoric acid solution, lest portions of muriates of soda and potash be formed and contaminate the solution.

This syrup is much used as a nutritive tonic to supply the waste occurring in the system during the progress of chronic diseases, and to build up the strength lost by long continued ill health. Its dose is a teaspoonful to be taken in water three times a day immediately before or after eating.

Medical Works, published in Great Britain from the 1st August, to the 1st Sept., 1864, with their usual numbers of pages, London publishers' names, and prices in sterling.

Hooper's Physicians' Vade Mecum: a Manual of the Principles and Practice of Physic, 7th edition, greatly enlarged and improved by W. G. Guy, and John Harle, 12mo. pp. 610 (Henshaw) 12s. 6d.

Periodicals received since 15th August.

British Medical Journal to 27th Aug.; London Medical Circular to 24th Aug.; London Medical Times to 27th Aug.; American Medical Times to 27th Aug.; Boston Med. and Surg. Journal to 8th Sept.; Cincinnati Lancet and Observer, Aug.; Philadelphia Med. and Surg. Reporter to 8th Sept.; Philadelphia Dental Cosmos, Sept.; Chicago Medical Examiner, July; Chicago Medical Journal, August; Canada Medical Journal, Sept.; Buffalo Med. and Surg. Journal, Aug.; London Pharmaceutical Journal, August; American Druggists' Circular, Sept.; London Chemist and Druggist, Aug.; London Publishers' Circular to 1st Sept.; University Med. and Surg. Journal, Phil. Sept.; American Quarterly Journal of Ophthalmology, New York, April.

Books and Pamphlets received.

The Physicians Dose and Symptom Book. By Joseph Wythes, M.D. Fourth edition improved. (Lindsay Blackiston), 1864. From the Publishers.
Report of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, Toronto, for the year 1863. From Dr. Workman.

Subscriptions paid since last issue.

Dr. R. I. MacDonnell, 5s.; Dr. W. P. Smith, 5s.; Dr. John Waulsley, 5s.; Dr. P. O'Leary, 10s.; Dr. Angus MacDonnell, 5s.; Dr. Archambault, 5s.; Dr. J. P. Rossiers, 5s.; J. Hallimore, Esq., Toronto, 10s.; Dr. Caniff, Belleville, 5s.; Dr. W. S. Morrison, Waddington, N. Y., 10s.; Dr. James Langstaff, Richmond Hill, C. 5s.; John Jennings, Esq., Ottawa, 5s.

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