

I noticed in a recent number of the *Lancet*, the production before the Westminster Medical Society, by Dr. Cormack, of two hen-eggs, united at one end by a narrow neck, which was considered unique. If they had been hatched, we might have expected some singular formation in one or both kinds, or perhaps two single chickens in the usual way. Eggs with double yolks are not uncommon, and even a triple yolk is sometimes found. It is rather a singular fact that two of the eggs in the nest from which the present monstrosity was obtained, should be double yelked, and produce twin chickens alive, and also a third egg in the same condition, but instead of producing two separate chicks, they should be united into one with eight extremities.

48, Craig street, }
Montreal, April 15, 1850. }

Peculiar effects of Ipecacuanha from Idiosyncrasy, by F. W. SHERRIFF, M.D., Huntingdon.

Having for several years been affected in a singular manner by ipecacuanha, both when respiring the particles of the powder, and also from taking it internally, I conceive that a statement of its effects might prove interesting and instructive to your readers, as it is possible a similar case might be met with in practice.

In October, 1840, I had an attack of measles, attended with severe cough and dyspnoea, this being the second time in which I was affected with this disease. During the following year, I had several attacks of severe catarrh, attended with asthmatic symptoms. In the spring of 1841, these attacks became very frequent, but which, although severe, never lasted more than twelve hours, always ending in a copious secretion of mucus. I now became rather alarmed, and was often puzzled to account for the asthma, as my health was in general good, and the attacks

always came on unexpectedly. At last, in reading the article "Asthma" in the *Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine* I there learned for the first time, that ipecacuanha frequently induced a similar affection, and I immediately concluded that such was my case. I instantly went to my surgery, and began to prepare Dover's powder, and was in a few minutes violently affected. This experiment I frequently repeated, and always with the same result; and now, mixing even a grain of Dover's powder will cause wheezing and cough.

To be affected in this manner by ipecacuanha, is, I believe, not uncommon; but the manner in which I am affected when taking it internally, is, I think, very remarkable. Three years ago, feeling unwell, I took a scruple of ipecac. in a wine-glass full of warm water. In five minutes, the mucus membranes of my nose, mouth and throat became violently irritated. Urgent dyspnoea came on, my nostrils were impervious to air, and I had to sit erect and actually gasp for breath. Yellow coloured water began to run from my nostrils, which soon changed to bloody serum; my mouth and throat appeared much inflamed, and discharged much thick slime and mucus. In an hour I vomited freely with some relief, but for three weeks I had severe cough and great tenderness in my chest. About a year afterwards, I had catarrh, and one evening I took a draught containing vin. ipecac. tinct. opii. acet. scill. of each half a drachm. In a few minutes, I became affected as before, but not with such severity. I obtained relief this time by going into a warm bath, which caused an eruption of scarlet blotches all over my body. When affected on former occasions by inhaling the powder, I have been frequently relieved by smoking tobacco. Until the last six years, I had often taken large doses and been in the constant practice of preparing it pharmaceutically, without the slightest injury or inconvenience; and I have no doubt that this idiosyncrasy has been caused by measles.

Huntingdon, Feb. 15, 1850.