

## Medical Items.

"SUITS FOR MAL-PRACTICE."—*Mr. Editor*:—Two suits for mal-practice against members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, have, the past week, been brought to a successful termination. The first was brought against one of the older members of the Norfolk District, for alleged mal-treatment of a broken thigh. The plaintiff claimed \$10,000 for a shortening of 2½ inches. It was proved to be shortened only 1½ inches; that this amount of shortening was not unusual; and that the treatment had been good. The trial consumed three days. The jury returned a prompt verdict for the defendant.

The second suit was brought against a suburban physician of age and repute, for alleged deformity of the little finger after a dislocation of the elbow, fracture of the radius, and lacerated wound over the fifth metacarpophalangeal articulation. Damages laid down at \$5,000. The plaintiff's lawyer threw up the case; and the judge dismissed the action.

Having passed through ourselves the pleasant experience of a suit for mal-practice, we can the more heartily sympathize with the defendants, both of whom are most deserving members of the profession. Had the verdict been for the plaintiffs, the practice of surgery would have been too hazardous for comfort in this state. D. W. C.—*Boston Med. & Surg. Journal*.

BISMUTH A WRITING FLUID.—If we write with a pen dipped in a solution of the nitrate of Bismuth, after it is dry nothing can be seen, but as soon as we plunge the paper in water the writing will become distinctly visible. Secret intelligence has been conveyed in this way by writing between the lines of ink with the solution of bismuth.—*Medical Record*.

CASES OF SNAKE-BITE TREATED BY HALFORD'S METHOD.—A correspondent of the *Medical Times and Gazette* reports three cases of snake-bite, treated successfully by Halford's method, which consists in injecting into one of the large veins liquor ammoniac, diluted with two or threetimes its quantity of water. Twenty or thirty drops of the solution should be introduced.—*Ibid*

DIABETES CURED BY PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN. Mr. J. J. Bayfield (*British Medical Journal*) reports a case of diabetes cured by peroxide of hydrogen. He commenced with half-drachm doses of the ethereal essence of the peroxide, and gradually increased it to three drachms a day.—*Ibid*

A CASE OF PETRIFICATION.—The following singular case of petrification was recently published in the *Criminal Zeitung* of Dec. 4th, 1868:

Amos Broughton, of Wayne County, Iowa, died six years ago, and recently on disinterring the body it was found in a state of petrification, like a marble statue. Every feature was perfect, and the whole face life-like. The weight of the statue was 400 pounds. Broughton weighed just before death 200 pounds.—*Med. Record*.

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE.—*On dit* that Professor Pancoast who has for so many years been the distinguished Professor of Anatomy in the Jefferson Medical College in this city, is about resigning if he has not already done so. Who will be his successor? Several names are canvassed—but one name, that of Dr. Hayes Agnew, carries with it a weight which will insure success, if indeed, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are so short-sighted as to submit to the loss of a man who is to them a tower of strength.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

Two cases of death from chloroform have recently occurred in this city, in which every apparent care was taken to guard against such a result. We doubt not that there are yet to be found, despite many similar cases that are constantly occurring, many enthusiasts for this anæsthetic who are still ready to affirm that it has no direct agency in causing death. Such, however, can no more be convinced of their error than was the Indian who missed his way:—"Indian no lost! only wigwam gone!"—*Medical Record*.

—The following "item" will account for some of the "missing numbers" that we occasionally hear of. "Mr. Holloway, the new Postmaster of Indianapolis, discovered in the basement of the office-building, locked up in a room, fifty-five bags filled with undistributed mail matter, accumulated during the past winter."—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

—Since writing our editorial on "Medical Graduates," we have seen a communication from a medical gentleman at White Pine, from which we extract the following:—"I am much disappointed with this dist. regarding a physician chance at the present time. There is more Dr. her than would patch H—a mile. If the were doctors but the most of them is quacks and humbugs—the advertise strongly and get what ever paying practice there is going in fact there is but little money in this country and what is the rich man has it all and when the are sick the go to San Francisco."—*Cal. Med. Gazette*.

—Literature and science will be well represented in the next French Corps Legislatif. Among the candidates likely to be elected without much opposition are nine University Professors, four historians, three naturalists, twenty one novelists, one hundred and fourteen barristers, seven poets, thirty-two journalists, and fifteen physicians.

—The anatomical museum of the St. Louis Medical College was destroyed by fire recently. It was the richest and most valuable of its kind in that section of the country. No insurance on it. We presume the loss included Dr. Pope's extensive and valuable private collection.

### Books and Pamphlets Received.

Proceedings of the State Medical Society of Michigan for the years 1867 and 1868.

We this month are under an obligation to the Editor and Publishers of the *Medical Record*, for the enclosed plates, at cost price, illustrating Prof. Dalton's Lecture on Trichina.