

dyspepsia is decidedly the most common disease in this country; although the people, with the exception of a little fish, consume scarce anything that is not drawn directly from the soil. Healthless their sedentary existence, and the constant sipping of weak tea at a boiling temperature, contribute powerfully to the prevalence of this affliction.

The most ordinary diseases of the Japanese, as I have met them, are: dyspepsia, smallpox, syphilis, phthisis pulmonalis, and affections of the eyes and skin. The strumous diathesis is almost universal, and complicates most of the cases. The tendency to inflammation, of the acme variety, is very slight, and recovery from the most severe lacerations and injuries is usually effected "*Tute cito atque juvande*." Diseases of marked inflammatory character, as pneumonia, or acute rheumatism, are seldom met with. I have seen but one case of gout, which occurred in the person of the Prince of Nagato.

It is painful to reflect that thousands of lives are annually sacrificed, and an incalculable amount of human suffering endured, from sheer ignorance of the first principles of the healing art. Yet these people are not deficient in natural intelligence, and there is no doubt that as foreign relations become more intimate, and progress is made in other branches of human knowledge, medicine will also make advances commensurate with its importance, and provision be ultimately made for competent instruction. Japanese physicians possess, at least, the merit of candour and modesty (in their own country), and to honestly confess ignorance is undoubtedly the first step towards the acquisition of knowledge.—*American Journal of the Medical Sciences.*

### SEA-SICKNESS.

#### A DESCRIPTION OF A NEW METHOD OF CURE.

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During a recent passage across the Atlantic, in the St. Laurent, one of the French line of steamers, I had an opportunity of observing a new method of treating sea-sickness, as practised by Dr. Le Coniat, surgeon of the Imperial French Navy, but temporarily surgeon of the St. Laurent. Something more than curiosity prompted my observations. I had a decided personal interest in the matter, not only for myself, but for an invalid sister who had hitherto been frightfully sea-sick in all her journeyings from port to port.

As we left Brest, on Saturday afternoon, Dr. Le Coniat requested me, in the event either I or any of my friends should be taken ill by sea-sickness, to send for him at once, as he felt confident that in a large majority of cases he could control the malady.

Strong head winds and a rolling sea soon developed sea-sickness in its worst form to many of our passengers, and none were more ill than my sister and myself. On Sunday evening her illness assumed an alarming character; excessive vomiting and violent retching were succeeded by convulsions, followed by extreme prostration. In this extremity,

Dr. Le Coniat was sent for, who, after a few minutes' manipulation, arrested every symptom of sea-sickness, and gave her entire relief. The disposition to vomit was completely arrested, nor did it assert itself again during the voyage, though the sea was rough as before. She ate her meals without interruption, and with a relish, until our arrival in New York.

Although I was so ill that, with the exception of a single instance, I did not leave my berth from Saturday afternoon until Tuesday morning, during which time I had been unable to retain the least food in my stomach. I deferred resorting to the new remedy, thinking I would give time to Nature to come to my relief, should she be disposed to do so. Despairing of any such aid, I submitted to Dr. Le Coniat's treatment, the effect of which so fortified my stomach and removed all disposition to nausea, that I was enabled to eat my breakfast and retain it; nor did I vomit again during the voyage. The effect of the remedy in my case was not altogether complete and permanent, though I experienced great relief at the time. On submitting to the treatment a second time, I was entirely cured.

Dr. Le Coniat applied his remedy to many others during our passage, always producing great and immediate relief, and generally an entire cure. I recollect two instances where ladies had been confined to their berths for several days, unable either to eat or to raise their heads from the pillow. Immediately after the Doctor's treatment, they took their seats at the dining table, and occupied them at every principal meal during the rest of the passage. Dr. Le Coniat's theory is, that sea-sickness is induced by electric disturbance throughout the system, and that vomiting at these times is induced by an involuntary spasmodic contraction of the stomach from the pyloric to the cardiac orifice, thereby emptying that organ. In order to reverse this abnormal condition and restore the electric equilibrium, he places his patient in a horizontal position, uncovers the stomach, and applies to the skin, immediately over it, a solution of sulphate of atropine in the proportion of one grain to an ounce of water; he then places the negative pole of a galvanic battery, terminating in a flat disk, upon the stomach corresponding to the pyloric region. Then, with the positive pole terminating in a moist sponge, he manipulates across the surface of the skin from the cardiac to the pyloric orifice. These manipulations are kept up for three or four minutes, occasionally varying them by vertical passes downward. During the transit of the positive pole across the surface, the muscles can be seen to contract vigorously. The stimulus of galvanism rendered to the stomach by these means is much the same as that given to any other paralyzed or weakened muscle of the body—certainly the effect produced justifies the theory. It appears to be not only local in its influence, but pervading; the whole system seems to be brought under its control; its effects are soothing and refreshing, and generally accompanied with drowsiness, followed by refreshing sleep.

Dr. Le Coniat has been practising and improving his new remedy for about three years past; he has written one or two minor articles on the subject, which have been published in some of the French journals. On his return home, he proposes to pub-