

was understood in his day. During his Algerian captivity he ministered to the needs of his fellow-prisoners in sickness with a skill which bespeaks, if not special training, a considerable experience in dealing with disease. How close and accurate an observer he was is shown by the wonderful picture of delusional insanity which he gives in *Don Quixote*. M. Villechauvaix points out that he anticipated Pinel in the rational treatment of insanity. The books of chivalry which had disordered the brain of the Knight of the Sorrowful Countenance are destroyed, and every effort is made to create a new mental environment for him, his very delusions being skillfully taken advantage of to this end. It is somewhat strange that M. Villechauvaix should have made no reference to Sancho Panza's famous physician, who in his strict views as to diet may perhaps be looked upon as the scientific forerunner of Sir Andrew Clark. He quotes, however, an epophthegm that the "stomach is the laboratory in which health is manufactured," which shows that Cervantes had very sound views as to the important relations of the digestive to other functions of the body.—*The British Medical Journal*.

ONE HUNDRED CASES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS TREATED WITH LARGE DOSES OF BEECHWOOD CREOSOTE.

Dr. Charles Lamplough, Resident Medical Officer, City of London Hospital for diseases of the chest, discusses the subject in the *British Medical Journal*, May 28, 1898.

The drug was given by inhalation and internally, beginning with small doses, and increasing until 40 to 60 minims were taken three times daily after meals, and in some cases larger doses, and he thinks that even larger doses could be given. In sixty-eight cases the symptoms either partially or entirely disappeared, the patients increased in weight and the temperature fell. Average stay in hospital was two months. The physical signs improved in these cases, but not in proportion to the symptoms. Albumen disappeared from the urine in cases where it was present, and it does not induce this condition. But little discomfort comes from swallowing these doses, and anorexia, nausea and sickness are rarely complained of. If it occurs on account of the oil, a spirituous solution may be substituted, or the emulsion may be given in milk, sucking a lemon after or taking beef tea or fruit juice. Creosote tends to act as a laxative, and does not tend to produce hæmoptisis but rather acts as a hæmostatic in phthisis. Creosote is excreted by the kidneys as guaiacol and cresol.