

In concluding these remarks, I cannot fully express my deep obligation to my worthy friends Drs. Fulton and Geikie, and to the two young medical students, Messrs. Davidson and Ashby, to whose prompt and very kind assistance I greatly ascribe the most satisfactory result of this operation.

IMPROMPTU LACTO-PHOSPHATE OF LIME.

BY H. B. EVANS, M.D., M.R.C.S. ENG., KINGSTON.

The daily increasing number of elegant and useful preparations lately introduced to the notice of the Medical Profession by the *Pharmacien*, is likely to puzzle the physician as to their selection, and at the same time empty his pockets, and those of his patients, by their unusual expense. And here a great question arises: How are the poor to be supplied, who from their calling are most exposed to the ravages of disease, if their use be absolutely necessary? Most certainly not by the liberality of the people, nor by that of the municipalities, for be it said to the shame of the government, the charge of the sick poor is entirely thrown upon the unrewarded care of the medical profession. In the great republic of medicine, the peer and the peasant should be equal, and the best and most efficacious remedies be within the reach of one as well as the other; therefore anything that will bring these to the service of the poor, is well worthy of attention. It is allowed by physiologists that,

1st. Just as in plants and inferior animals, the phosphate of lime is indispensably necessary in man, for the formation of cells. This formation not only depends upon the presence of albumen and fat, but likewise on the presence of phosphate of lime.

2nd. The want of phosphate of lime, either in plants or animals causes a deficient formation of cells, and a great many pathological states of the system really seem to depend upon a deficiency of phosphate of lime.

3rd. In accordance with these general laws we must suppose, that we are enabled to cure, or at least to alleviate, by the internal administration of the phosphate of lime, diseases marked by emaciation, formation of ulcers; in one word, by a

deficient formation of cells. But it should be mentioned that we shall never be able to produce an increase in cell formation, unless we administer a perfectly wholesome and nitrogenous diet.

It is surprising then that an agent, so largely distributed, both in the animal and vegetable kingdom, should not be more used in anæmic diseases than it is. The Lacto-Phosphate of Lime, which appears to be most easy of assimilation into the system, may be readily prepared by adding the powdered phosphate of lime to sour milk, say in the proportion of thirty grains of the former, to one pint of the latter, and a little white sugar added, makes this medicine very palatable. I have used this simple preparation for years, and have been astonished at its blood-making properties; in fact it is necessary sometimes to stop its administration in consequence of the occurrence of hæmorrhage, therefore in giving it in incipient phthisis, its effects should be watched narrowly. I think in this disease we are much too apt to prescribe whiskey and cod liver oil, when we should be combatting this, the inflammatory stage, by anti-phlogistic remedies.

ON DIABETES INSIPIDUS.

BY WM. KERR, M.D., GALT.

This disease is so rare that Sir T. Watson had not for many years of his professional life met with an instance. I have happened to see two, both of which resisted all treatment, like those mentioned by him. A third in the incipient stage yielded, and as the plan adopted is novel, and my chance of seeing another not likely to occur, I venture to send a sketch of it to the LANCET.

In the winter of 1872, a gentleman sixty-nine years of age, after walking in melting snow was unable during the night to void urine, which in the forenoon was drawn off, a large sized catheter easily entering the bladder. He has since been several times seized with retention of urine, more especially if his feet were cold when he went to bed, but he readily relieved himself by introducing a flexible catheter. For years before the first of these attacks, a few drops of urine were apt to come away involuntarily, if he could not speedily find an opportunity of emptying the bladder, and