

way to the bull, which the matador had just stricken, caught the blood as it flowed from the wound, in a goblet, and drank it off before the assembly. On inquiring into the object the poor Spaniard had in view, it appeared that the blood of a bull just *slain* was a popular remedy for consumptive symptoms."

Returning to surgery, the use of the self-absorbing ligature, is one of the things looked upon as part of the all-appropriating Listerian system, but it is older than that. Sir Astley Cooper used for a short period ligatures of catgut and deer tendons. The early American surgeons used ligatures of chamois skin, kid, buckskin, the tendons of deer, catgut, and strips of parchment. Chelius makes this statement: "The practice of removing both ends close to the knot, published by Haire of England, in 1786, was adopted by Hennen in 1813, at the suggestion of one of his associates, who believed it to have been an American invention."

The drainage tube, too, was used in the last illness of Philip II., of Spain, as has been shown recently by a writer in the *British Medical Journal*.—(March 5th, '80).

In a work now before me, entitled the "Mellificium Chirurgiæ," or, "The Marrow of Chirurgery," an anatomical treatise by James Cooke, of Warwick, published in 1685, there are many things which remind one of the practice of the present day, though I must confess the bulk of the treatment is rubbish; for instance, he recommends the tying of a live mouse to the thigh to cure prolapsus uteri; and advises the moss of a dead man's skull in epilepsy. However, amongst his weapons, as he calls them, we find sponge tents and dried roots to "dilate fistulas, to keep up the womb, and keep open issues." He also mentions his speculum ani and matricis, "where diseases are which, unless discerned, cannot well be cured." Again, amongst the accidents after child-birth, is described "milk abscess," and its preventative treatment. "Juice of deadly nightshade, or rather the fresh leaves laid on the paps, mollifies, discusses, and heals the hardened tumours, yea, cancers, oft tried." Perhaps his last statement requires modification, but as to such a course being decidedly palliative no one can have a doubt.

Mr. Coke's description of opium is so very quaint, that though it has very little bearing upon the subject, I cannot refrain from quoting it, "Laudanum Opiatum. 'Tis a gallant anodyne, seldom frustrates expectation, but helps without trouble to the brain, against pains from whatever cause arising, all hemorrhoids, and fluxes of blood, in what part of the body soever; against all defluxions: therefore gr. i. is excellent in the chin-cough; procures rest in the fevers, bridles the raging of the humors, is excellent in madness, melancholy, vomiting, epilepsie, hiccough, colick, weakness of the stomach, pleurisie, all sorts of gout and stone."

Suppositories for the urethra are regarded as modern, at least I have always done so, but old Cooke, of Warwick, writes as if they were old in his day. In the treatment of gout depending upon a granular condition of the urethra he strongly recommends their use. "To this may be referred candles of wax, anointed with fit medicines, and put into the yard to cure caruncles." He then refers the reader to Sculletus and other writers.

In the London *Lancet* (May 12th, 1866) there is an article headed "A Novel Treatment of Gonorrhœa and Gleet," in which it is said, "we have been interested lately in observing a new process (viz., the treatment by bougies) which is now being tried by Mr. Henry Thompson, at University College Hospital." Scarcely had this article been published when two surgeons wrote to the *Lancet*, claiming the honour of the invention. Then Sir Henry writes a letter stating that its origin is of ancient date prior to the time of Wiseman.

Another old book in my possession, is written by Gideon Harvey, M.D., "their Majesties Physician of the Tower, and Fellow of the College of Physicians of the Hague." This book was printed in 1689. Now, this writer, a heretic in a medical way, devotes in a very quaint fashion his talents to denouncing the polypharmacy prevalent in his time, for in those days even our friend Cooke's prescriptions contained no end of trash, and asserting as we do to-day that nature cures the disease with or without the physician's aid, often in spite of the physician. In fact his views coincide with the