

conducive to the disappearance of congestion in internal organs or external parts is well known; nor are there examples wanting of artificial ulcers aiding in the cicatrization of long-standing sores, so that the influence of the electric moxa seems at first sight more likely to have been exerted indirectly than directly. Still it must be conceded that this indirect effect may be of a peculiar nature; further trials will probably settle the point.

Whilst on the subject of therapeutic uses of galvanism, we should not omit to mention the galvanic poultice lately proposed by *M. Récamier*, of Paris. It has been successfully used for neuralgic and rheumatic pains, &c., and consists of a piece of cotton-wool, containing a layer of minute fragments of zinc, and another of particles of copper; the wool being properly sewn up, is placed in a bag, one surface of which is of cotton, the other of an air-tight tissue. The permeable surface of the bag is then applied to the skin, and fixed by a roller or a towel; heat is soon developed; the perspiration, retained by the air-tight texture, accumulates; it moistens the bag, and this moisture, which is acid, acts on the zinc and copper placed in the cotton-wool.

Thus the two metals are acted upon by a dilute acid solution, just as they are in the trough or the pile, and a certain amount of electricity is disengaged. When the skin is very dry and unperspirable, a piece of flannel, dipped in a solution of common salt, and then wrung out, is placed between the galvanic bag and the skin. Electricity is given off to such an extent, that it acts like a mustard poultice, though there is no pain, but merely a pricking feeling of warmth. Time will show whether *M. Récamier's* galvanic poultice acts otherwise than common counter-irritants.—*Lancet*, Jan. 25, 1851.

PRACTICAL RULES ON THE SUPPRESSION OF ARTERIAL HEMORRHAGE.

By Professor Syme.

In the first place, you should hold it established, that it is always desirable if possible, to arrest bleeding from arteries by means applied at the seat of injury. Secondly, you may be assured that bleeding at and below the wrist, and at and below the ankle, is always under the control of pressure, provided it be properly employed,—that is, not superficially, but from lint, or some other suitable substance being introduced into the wound, and made to press directly upon the orifice of the vessel. Thirdly, in wounds of all arteries, accessible between the limits just mentioned and the heart, the vessel should be exposed at the seat of injury, and tied on both sides of the wound it has sustained. The principal has been so loudly maintained by *Mr. Guthrie*, that I believe some people have given him the credit of its origin; but it has been long established as a sound principle of practice by surgeons of the highest eminence both at home and abroad, and more especially by *Mr. John Bell*, of Edinburgh, in whose '*Principles of Surgery*' you will find many graphic and impressive lessons of the effects resulting from attention to it, and also from its regard.

One evening I received a message from the Northern Railway, that there was a steamboat waiting at Granton to carry me across the Firth to Burntisland, where a special train would be ready to proceed onwards, but whither, or for what purpose, there was no information. Having travelled a considerable distance, I met several practitioners, of great experience and intelligence, who were