

the abscess opens into the urethra, as it usually does, no special treatment is necessary; if it points toward the rectum, however, or if, with unmistakable symptoms of suppuration, the abscess shows no disposition to point in either of these directions, it becomes necessary to evacuate it, as it is very desirable that it be prevented from burrowing between the layers of perinaal fascia, and so finding its way into the perinaeum. If this unfortunately occurs, an incision should be made in the median line until the pus cavity is reached."

Those of your readers who have Hare's System of Practical Therapeutics (published in 1892) will find almost the same words on page 597, 3rd vol. From the above, it is evident that the American Text Book and Hare's Therapeutics—the former published this year, and the latter last year—on this one point, have taken the ideas and the language almost verbatim of the encyclopædia published ten years ago. This is book-making of an extraordinary type. No quotation marks are used. Subscribers to these works were assured that they would receive classical works of rare value in a library.

It is, to say the least of it, not very instructive or gratifying, for anyone looking up a particular point to find in their works, intended to be of use for reference, precisely the same language.

Further comment is unnecessary. Medical men should not encourage such methods, especially when the result is to cumber their shelves with mere compilations from standard works already in their possession.

I may add that, on further investigation, I find that the whole article on "Gonorrhœa" (pp. 850 to 881) is a condensation of the article on the same subject in the 2nd vol. of the "International Encyclopædia." In many parts it is a verbatim copy, and I fail to find that it contains any new matter. I am aware that the writer of the article in the Encyclopædia is Dr. J. William White, of Philadelphia, and I am informed that he furnished the article above mentioned for the text book. It would seem that he struck out a phrase, a sentence, or a paragraph, as he thought proper, from his original article, and thus furnished, in quick order, his latest article on this subject. The article may be excellent, but I cannot say that I admire

it so much that I would wish to obtain two or three copies of it.

ANGUS MACKINNON.

Guelph, Jan. 1893.

## DR. BULKLEY'S THEORY OF MILK ABSORPTION.

*To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.*

SIR,—In the October number of your valuable journal, I notice that in the discussion following Dr. Graham's excellent and exhaustive paper on the "Treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis," Dr. Bulkley, of New York State, delegate from that State, advances the theory that milk can be absorbed through the coats of the stomach without digestion. This is, as he rightly states, a question of considerable clinical interest, but it is of more physiological interest when we consider that Dr. Bulkley's theory is in direct contradiction to all physiological teaching, and I am somewhat surprised that the matter was not more fully discussed on that occasion. Being somewhat interested in the matter, I took the liberty of presenting it to Professor Rutherford, probably the greatest authority on such matters that speaks the English language, and with his kind permission I addend his reply to my note:

"14 DOUGLAS CRESCENT,

"EDINBURGH.

"DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of the 27th ult., I have to say that the account you copied relating to absorption of milk by the stomach, appears to have proceeded from an imaginative, but not strictly scientific, mind.

"You can easily estimate the amount of fat and proteid in cow's milk. Give a measured quantity of the same milk to a fasting cat, taking care to heat milk to temperature of blood. Kill cat half an hour later and estimate the amount of fat and proteid in its stomach, and determine the value of the statement made.

"The salts and water are absorbed at once in the stomach. The casein is soon curdled. If you find the lymphatics of the gastric wall become white, I should be glad to know it.

"Yours truly,

"W. RUTHERFORD."