

A REMEDY FOR SMALL-POX, BY ONE WHO HAS TRIED IT.

A correspondent of the *Scientific American* writes to that journal as follows:—

The following was written several months ago, but was not forwarded, as the press had been teeming with small-pox "cures," which are generally so evidently worthless, that I hesitated putting my little communication among the prescriptions; feeling almost sure it would meet with no more attention than is accorded to the many, placed daily before the prudently incredulous reader.

But I find it impossible to resist the conviction on my part that to withhold any longer from the public my knowledge of a remedy—or mode of treatment—for variola and its modifications, would be criminal, as well as weak, in view of my confidence as to a successful result.

Some years ago, I had a case of varioloid, in my family, contracted from actual contagion, but not from strictly immediate contact with variola. The patient, my daughter, a child nine years old, carried a muf to church, the day after her mother had loaned it for a short time to a young lady friend in the cars. This lady had just recovered, apparently entirely, from small-pox contracted from her brother, who had returned home from the army, convalescent, but during the period of active desquamation, after a recent and almost fatal attack of small-pox.

Precisely ten days after my daughter carried the muf, on the eve of the tenth day, she was quite ill from a complication of symptoms. The next morning I noticed a number of spots on her skin, alarmingly suggestive of variola. Not having had any experience of such a case, I consulted a friend, a physician, who at once pronounced her disorder varioloid. He thought, too, that it would prove a severe case, as the symptoms, namely, fever, back-ache, head-ache, nausea, and the general appearance of the eruption, warranted such a diagnosis.

I took the case pretty much into my own hands, as I had at once resolved to pursue a line of treatment entirely different from that usually employed in such cases. Some time in the year 1861, I read in a number of the *Scientific American* (of that year), that a new remedy, discovered by a French chemist, namely, *soda sulphice*, was attracting great attention in certain quarters from its success in the treatment of ulceration, etc., and more particularly by its having cured entirely several well attested cases of hydrophobia. Its many valuable properties were fully discussed, verified, and freely endorsed by the French College of Surgeons; and were in substance what is now given in ample detail in the "United States Dispensatory, 1871, thirteenth editorial article—*"Soda sulphice."*

After some delay, I obtained a bottle of this medicine, and made use of it according to the notice of its properties as occasion gave opportunity, and always with satisfactory results.

To resume the subject of my case of varioloid. I administered to my patient 15 grains of the *soda sulphice*, dissolved in milk well sweetened, every three hours. I also had her entire body oiled effectually with crude petroleum, applied with the bare hand.

The next morning the eruption was absolutely killed and dry; and the disease broken up to the wonder and, I need scarcely add, the great relief of all interested. As no pustules had had time to form, not the least trace of the eruption remained; and in a few days my child was as well as ever.

When the "seventeen year locust" abounded in this region, it was found that the sting of the male locust was so poisonous as to produce serious and, in some cases noted, even fatal effects. A servant girl in my family trod upon a locust, and the sting had to be withdrawn with tweezers. The girl screamed with agony, and said it was "worse than forty bee stings." I gave her about 15 grains of the *soda sulphice*, and kept the wound wet with a cloth dipped frequently in a mixture of equal parts of spirits of ammonia, alcohol, and strong water solution of the *soda sulphice*. Although her foot had swollen amazingly before I had time to prepare my remedies, yet it stopped swelling at once after the first dose and application. A sharp pain went through the foot occasionally, but in a few hours the swelling and pain were entirely gone.

When my interest was first excited by the article referred to, concerning the *soda sulphice*, I urged a prominent druggist to send for it. He consented, stating, as far as I remember, that I should have to wait some time for it, as he should have to order it through a London house. I received it in due time, labelled as above.

I have, since that first supply was exhausted, made use of the American preparation, the sulphite of soda; but I prefer the foreign (French) article, as the American contains a larger percentage of sulphuric acid, and is, in fact, a hyposulphate. However, this now official preparation is equally efficacious.

I used the *soda sulphice* with perfect success, in cases of ulceration, and as a wash for scrofulous discharges of the eyes and glands, at the same time administering it internally, in doses varying from 10 to 30 grains, three times a day.

I would strongly urge the use of the crude petroleum in connection with the *soda sulphice*, for variola and all its modified forms; and in the treatment of measles, scarlatina, or any eruptive disease, whatever its nature may be. The beneficial effect of oiling the skin is well known.

The "crude oil" I use is that sold here in Pittsburgh under the name of "Kiers Petroleum." Several varieties of crude petroleum can be got, on inquiry, that are so clear and pure as to be available for many purposes without refining. Of this article there is, fortunately, no scarcity.

As the latest edition of the "United States Dispensatory" may not be within reach of all interested, I subjoin, from my copy (1871) a portion of what is said of the remedy—*soda sulphice*—under the description of the article, pp. 826, 827.

"Sulphite of soda, (*soda sulphice*.) This salt was first adopted as official in the present edition of the 'United States Pharmacopoeia.'

"Medicinal uses. Sulphite of soda has been used in cases of yeasty vomiting with remarkable success. The matter vomited in these cases has a yeasty appearance on the surface, and is generally found to contain—when examined by the microscope—two microscopic fungi called *sarcina ventriculi* and *toruli cerevisie*. The diseases, in which these medicines (the sulphites) have been recommended, are purulent infection, of whatever origin; malignant pustules; hospital gan-

grene; erysipelas, and other exanthematous fevers; malarial and miasmatic fevers; and in fine, all diseases which may be supposed to depend on absorbed poisons not acting on the tissues, but by a species of fermentation.

"Also, in controlling suppurative ulcers, and all suppurative affections of the mucous membranes, as of the throat; the bronchial tubes, through inhalation by the atomizer; the urinary passages; and the alimentary canal; and in any case where there is reason to think that the local affection is sustained by zymotic influence or invisible organisms, (parasitic, vegetable or animal); and in any disease in which purulent infection of the blood may be produced by the same cause. They almost act as specifics in such cases.

"At certain stages of cancer they operate in the same way, by obviating the effects of putrid fermentations."

Dr. Farnsworth says, in an article on the influence of drugs upon larve and insect life in standing water: "A solution of soda sulphite destroyed the inhabitants of the water in one glass, in two hours," etc. By comparing the effects of the different drugs, the Dr. shows that the soda sulphite takes rank with the highest in efficiency.

Thus we have evidence that the soda sulphite is an agent (just beginning to be appreciated) that can be relied on in exterminating noxious parasitic life; also animalcules, that produce or follow upon various diseases; as a remedy for ulcers and sores, for nausea, and vomiting; for eruptive diseases; for poisonous stings and bites; and at the same time possessing no injurious properties whatever, when made use of, internally or externally, in reasonable proportions and quantity.

A recent number of the *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—An interesting paper was read the other evening by Mr. Hamilton at the Statistical Society on the subject of our Colonies. As may be imagined from the venue, the author treated the matter mainly from the economical and statistical points of view, and his industry "cyphered out" some results which are worth noting. We find that our colonies and dependencies deal with us for nearly a quarter of our exports—for £51,000,000 in £222,000,000. Mr. Hamilton's argument went to prove that that sum was so much added to the aggregate income of the English people. Analyzing the consumption of our produce in the different colonies, and contrasting it with that of some foreign countries, we have the following figures:—In British North America, £1 5s. 8d. per head; in Australia and New Zealand, £8 10s. 3d.; among the white population of the Cape, £8 12s.; and in the West Indies, £2 7s.; while in the United States it is only 12s. 10d., in France 6s., in Spain 2s. 1d., and in Russia 11d. Even our favoured ally, Portugal, in spite of reciprocity and commercial treaties, only takes our goods to the value of 10s. 4d.; Holland figures highly, at £2 16s. 2d., but then it must be remembered Holland is a great depot for German goods in transit. The writer's deductions are obvious. The trade follows the flag. Colonial connection represents important annual receipts, which its disruption would disturb or destroy. With regard to the field the colonies offer to emigration from our overstocked country he notes that their relative area to the mother country is as 44 to 1, not including India and our military dependencies, which are as 8 to 1. In the discussion that ensued, the natural objection was taken that a great portion of that area was really valueless. But even should you reduce it by one-half you do not materially affect the writer's argument, and, for ourselves, we are merely quoting figures, not expressing opinions. In answer to the objection as to the burden the colonies impose on the exchequer, Mr. Hamilton gives facts as follows:—The total expenditure on them from 1853 to 1871 came in round numbers to £44,000,000; the total value of the exports to £450,000,000. Proceeding on the assumption that our exported produce represents so much income, that taxation on English incomes varies from 10 to 20 per cent., and, taking it at the lower figure, Mr. Hamilton assumes that the revenue of these nineteen years must have been £45,000,000. Then he assumes triumphantly that it leaves a balance of a million to the credit side. If he is right, he disposes of the primary financial argument so often urged against our preserving family relations with our grown-up children.

Speaking of the Bourbon chances in France, the Paris correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—Though for the moment the white flag is laid on the shelf, and the Comte de Chambord has "fallen out of the web of the story," an anecdote related by Chrysale relative to the drapeau blanc is not without its interest. Chrysale says that but for the white brassards worn by the allied armies, the Bourbons would never have returned to France. The allied soldiers in 1814 were very numerous, and, being entirely unacquainted with each other's uniforms, were constantly liable to mistake friends for foes. It was therefore decided at a council of war that all the allied troops should wear a brassard, and a white armlet was decided upon as the easiest to procure. The Kings and generals were engaged in deliberating whether they should instal a regency or re-establish the House of Bourbon. Talleyrand, lame, gouty, incapable of moving himself, had sent emissaries through all Paris to sound public opinion. Abbé de Pradt returned and declared that even the allied troops had donned the royal colours. Talleyrand rushed to the window of his house in the Rue St. Florentin, and from there saw some of the allied regiments defiling on the Place de la Concorde with the brassards in question, which duped all Paris. He immediately sent a courier to Hartwell, and Louis XVIII. had just time to arrive. Chrysale, to whom must be left the responsibility of this marvellous story, takes occasion to add:—"Défions-nous en 1872 des brassards blancs du hasard."

AN UNSINKABLE SHIP.—Captain M. Tweedie, R.A., has addressed an important and valuable suggestion to the Royal Artillery Institution for iron-plating a cruising ship so as to avoid the disadvantage appertaining to iron-plated vessels generally, and to provide a comfortable sea-going ship, fairly capable of holding her own with an iron-clad on an emergency, and yet almost unsinkable. At present, he thinks, neither the iron-clad nor the wooden ship fulfils the necessary conditions—the iron-clad on account of the injurious action of the salt water upon her iron-plating exposed to it, the difficulty of repairing in foreign ports, and her doubtful qualities as a sea-boat; the wooden ship, on account of her being an easy prey to an iron-clad enemy on a sudden outbreak of hostilities, and her liability to be sent to the bottom by the first

shot fired at her. Having got to the limit of iron-plating on the outside of a ship, and yet having a gun able to pierce it, he proposes to put the armour of cruising ships inside. His plan is to spring an arch or dome of iron in-board from the sides of the ship below the water line, the top of the dome rising a little above the surface, covering in the engines, the lower deck, and store-rooms, divided into a series of watertight compartments. This, he contends, would give additional strength to the ship, and, however much her hull might be knocked about, she could not sink unless the arch were penetrated, which, owing to its shape, would be nearly impossible. He also makes suggestions as to the armament and ventilation of the ship, but his main idea is to make a cruiser which shall be virtually unsinkable.

One very sultry evening in the dog-days Garrick performed the part of "Lear." In the first four acts he received the accustomed tribute of applause; at the conclusion of the fifth, when he wept over the body of Cordelia, every eye caught the soft infection. At this interesting moment, to the astonishment of all present, his face assumed a new character, and his whole frame appeared agitated by a new passion. It was not tragic, it was evidently an endeavour to suppress a laugh. In a few seconds the old attendant nobles appeared to be affected in the same manner, and the beautiful Cordelia, who was lying extended on a crimson couch, opening her eyes to see what occasioned the interruption, leaped from her sofa, and with the majesty of England, the gallant Albany, and tough old Kent, ran laughing off the stage. The audience could not account for this strange termination of a tragedy in any other way than by supposing that the *dramatis personae* were seized with a sudden frenzy; but their risibility had a different source. A fat Whitechapel butcher, seated in the centre of the front bench of the pit, was accompanied by his mastiff, who, being accustomed to sit on the same seat with his master, at home, naturally supposed that he might here enjoy the same privilege. The butcher sat very far back; and the dog, finding a fair opening, got on the seat, and fixing his fore-paws on the rail of the orchestra, peered at the performers with as upright a head and as grave an air as the most sagacious critic of the day. Our corpulent slaughterman was made of melting stuff, and not being accustomed to the heat of a play-house, found himself oppressed by a large and well-powdered Sunday periwig, which, for the gratification of cooling and wiping his head, he pulled off and placed on the head of the mastiff. The dog, being in so conspicuous a situation, caught the eye of Mr. Garrick and the other performers. A mastiff in a churchwarden's wig was too much; it would have provoked laughter in Lear himself, at the moment of his deepest distress. No wonder then that it had such an effect on his representative.

CHESS.

Solutions to problems sent in by Correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. A., Montreal.—Quite correct; the move you suggest will prevent mate in four moves in No. 44.

"BRITANNIA."—Solution received, correct.

INTELLIGENCE.

SUMMARY OF THE LATE MATCHES BY TELEGRAPH.

Toronto vs. Hamilton.

won.	won.	drawn.
3	2	1

Toronto vs. Seaforth.

(Consultation Games.)

won.	won.	drawn.
2	0	0

Hamilton vs. Seaforth.

won.	won.	drawn.
1	1	4

Hamilton vs. St. Catharines.

won.	won.	drawn.
4	0	1

Hamilton vs. London.

won.	won.
2	1

Bellefleur vs. Coburg.—One game only was played, but an error occurred in transmitting a move, and the result is disputed.

HAMILTON vs. ST. CATHARINES.

(Match by Telegraph.)

GAME NO. 1.

IRREGULAR OPENING.

St. Catharines.	Hamilton.
White, Mr. C. Hamilton.	Black, Mr. W. H. Judd.
1. P. to Q. Kt. 3rd	P. to K. 4th
2. B. to Kt. 2nd	Kt. to Q. B. 3rd
3. P. to K. 4th	Kt. to K. B. 3rd
4. Kt. to Q. 3rd	B. to Q. B. 4th
5. B. to Q. B. 4th	P. to Q. 3rd
6. P. to K. R. 3rd (a)	P. to Q. R. 3rd
7. P. to Q. R. 4th	Kt. to K. 2nd
8. Q. to K. B. 3rd (b)	P. to Q. B. 3rd
9. Q. Kt. to K. 2nd	Kt. to K. Kt. 3rd
10. P. to Q. 4th	P. takes P.
11. Kt. takes P. (c)	Kt. to K. 4th
12. Q. to K. 2nd	Q. to Q. R. 4th, ch.
13. P. to Q. B. 3rd (d)	B. takes Kt.
14. P. to Q. Kt. 4th	Q. to Kt. 3rd
15. B. takes K. B. P. ch.	Kt. takes B.
16. P. takes B.	Q. takes P. ch.
17. K. to B. sq.	Castles.
18. P. to K. B. 3rd	P. to Q. 4th
19. P. to K. 5th	Kt. to R. 4th
20. Q. to K. B. 2nd	Kt. to K. Kt. 6th, ch. (e)
21. Q. takes Kt.	Q. takes B.
22. R. to Q. sq.	Q. to Kt. 6th
23. R. to R. sq.	Q. to Q. B. 6th
24. R. to Q. sq.	Q. to Q. B. 5th, ch.
25. Kt. to K. 2nd	Q. takes Q. R. P.
26. K. to B. 2nd	Q. to Q. B. 7th
27. R. to R. sq.	Q. to K. B. 4th
28. K. R. to K. B. sq.	Kt. to Kt. 4th
29. K. to Kt. sq.	Q. to K. Kt. 3rd
30. P. to K. R. 4th	Kt. to K. 3rd.
31. Resigns.	

(a) Losing time; K. Kt. to B. 3rd seems much stronger.

(b) White's difficulties begin after this move, which leaves him a cramped position; the K. Kt. must now remain out of play, until the adversary has acquired a much superior game.

(c) B. takes P. seems much preferable.

(d) Highly imprudent; K. to B. sq. would, even yet, have left a chance to retrieve his game; after the move made, it is virtually lost.

(e) Black's play throughout has been correct, taking prompt advantage of his opponent's errors.