

that prevail among well-educated physicians. If there are inherent difficulties here they are to be met boldly and prudently, on a basis which can be defended; but I am persuaded that the least defensible and most perilous way to meet them is to elect men to professorships, the very name of which instructs them to be partizan defenders of exclusive theories—as, for instance, in the Literary Department, Professors of 'Protestantism' or 'Presbyterianism,' or in the Law Department, Professors of 'Conservatism' or 'Radicalism,' or 'Democracy,' or in the Medical Department, Professors of 'Allopathy' or 'Homoeopathy.'

"It is not my business to describe Homoeopathy or Allopathy, or any theory of the healing art, though the relation of this subject to the University has led me, impartially as I could, to examine their claims. Homoeopaths profess to cure by the administration of medicine on theory only, to wit: that diseases must be overcome by medicines that will produce disorder in a healthy body similar to that which they will heal in a diseased body. They also usually conjoin with this a theory that very small quantities of medicine, in many instances even infinitesimal quantities—too small for the human mind clearly to estimate—are sufficient.

"The regular school of physicians, called Allopathists by Homoeopaths, though they do not accept the name, and deny that it is applicable, teach that all diseases and remedies are to be studied experimentally, and that whatever medicines are proved to be curative and beneficial should be employed, and in doses of any size that may be found, by actual use, to be necessary, whether large or small."—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*

The Injurious Consequences of the use of Sewing Machines Prevented.

Mr. Editor:—Some time since, in an article published in the Medical and Surgical Journal (See this JOURNAL, Vol LXXV, page 87), we called the attention of its readers to the important subject of the bad effects often produced on the health of females by the frequent and prolonged use of sewing machines. In that article a translation was given of a portion of a paper on the same subject read to the *Société Médicale des Hôpitaux*, of Paris, by Dr. Guibout. Subsequently experience has confirmed us in the opinion that much harm is done by these instruments, solely for the want of some proper motive power by which the operator may be relieved from the excessive labor of working the treadle; and in this opinion we believe we are sustained by most physicians. Our object in writing at this moment is to say, that there seems to be a prospect that this objection to this otherwise invaluable machine, will be entirely removed by an ingenious invention just patented by Dr. Spencer, a dentist of Providence. This contrivance he calls an "improved mode of producing a rotary motion from the treadle;" and the effect of it is that the motion is kept up by the slightest movement of the foot. In the case of ordinary treadles acting upon a crank, the foot, of necessity, must move, with each revolution, through the same distance up and down; and the effect of this monotonous repetition of the movement is most wearisome and exhausting. By Dr. Spencer's contrivance the machine is kept

constantly in action, whether the foot moves through a longer or shorter distance; giving the operator a chance of varying, as often as is desired, the muscular effort necessary to run it. The invention displays great ingenuity, and attracted much attention at the last meeting of the Society of Arts at the Institute of Technology. So far as it has been tested it has proved to be all that its inventor claims for it.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.* S. L. ABBOT.

Glycerine and Yolk of Eggs.—Four parts, by weight, of yolk of egg, rubbed in a mortar with five parts of glycerine, according to the *Philadelphia Journal of Pharmacy*, gives a preparation of great value as an unguent for application to broken surfaces of the skin of all kinds. The compound has a horny-like consistence, is unctuous like fatty substance, but over which it has the advantage of being quickly removed by water. It is unalterable, a specimen having laid exposed to the air for three years unchanged. Applied to the skin, it forms a varnish which effectually excludes the air and prevents its irritating effects. These properties render it serviceable for erysipelas and cutaneous affections, of which it allays the action.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

Elixir of Vitriol and Tannin as a Hemostatic.—The combination of elixir of vitriol and tannic acid has proved upon trial, a very convenient hemostatic for dental use. It has been found very effective in internal as well as external hemorrhages, and is more agreeable, when applied to the mouth, than many of the agents possessing like properties. By its application a violent hemorrhage following excision of the tonsil was immediately and permanently arrested. It is also effective in diarrhoea where astringents are indicated. We recommend this preparation for hemorrhages following the extraction of teeth, in two cases of which we have successfully used it.—*American Journal of Dental Science.*

A New Anodyne.—Dr. A. H. Gallatin, of this city communicates the following:—Having a case where the oxide of zinc and bromide of potassium had failed in producing sleep, and where the cerebral symptoms prevented the exhibition of any preparation of opium, I thought of trying a combination codeia, ipecacuanha, and sulphate of potash, in imitation of pulv. Doveri. The result satisfied my theoretical expectations. Morphia, codeia, and perhaps other alkaloid extractions of opium are now universally used, when the narcotic without the stimulating effects are to be produced. By combining these principles with Ipecacuanha, I think I have provided a mixture which may be given in cases where it would not be judicious to use pulv. Doveri.

Several members of the faculty are at present trying this mixture in their practice, at my suggestion. I hope soon to give an account of the result.—*Medical Record.*

A New Styptic.—One part of crystalized perchloride of iron, gradually and carefully mixed with six parts of collodion, so as to prevent evolution of heat, which injures the collodion, forms an excellent hemostatic for wounds, leech bites, &c. The