

the hepatic and other secretions of the alimentary canal. In constipation it should be used in carefully graduated doses, sufficient to move the bowels in a natural manner, but not sufficient to purge, as catharis is not desirable. Its use should be persisted in, so as to give the organs time to resume their natural functions with vigor and regularity.

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WHO OWNS THE AMPUTATED LEG?—The Supreme Court of Justice of Belgium has just been called upon to decide a novel and extraordinary question. One of the leading surgeons of Brussels had occasion, about a year ago, to amputate the leg of a young married lady belonging to the highest circles of the aristocracy. The operator was so pleased with his job that he preserved the leg in a jar of spirits of wine and placed it on exhibition in his consulting room, a card being affixed to the jar giving the patient's name and the details concerning the circumstances which had rendered the operation necessary. On hearing this, the husband of the lady demanded the immediate discontinuance of the exhibition, and the return of the severed member as being his property. To this the surgeon demurred. He admitted the plaintiff had property rights in the leg while it formed part of his wife, but argued that the leg in its present condition was the result of his (defendant's) skill and the work of his own hands, and that he was clearly entitled to keep it. The court seemed rather staggered by this line of argument, and, after taking a fortnight to consider the question, finally decided against the doctor and in favor of the husband's claim to the possession of the amputated leg of his better-half.—*40 Cent. L. J.*, 101.

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WEIGHING THE BABY.—Weighing the baby should never be neglected, for however well and happy it may seem, if it is not putting on its normal addition of weight there is something wrong. In adults, loss of weight is one of the most important signs of diseases which interfere with nutrition, but in infants it is not a question merely of loss of weight; any lessening of the normal gain should attract attention, for long before the various troubles of digestion, to which hand-fed infants are so liable, show themselves by general symptoms or by wasting they will interfere with that steady increase of weight which week by week a healthy infant shows. Dr. Griffith, lecturing on infantile disorders, points out that for from three to five days after birth it is common for children to lose weight. During that time they lose meconium and urine, and water is evaporated in respiration, while they have not yet begun to absorb their full supply of nutriment.