

and not entitled to credit, yet gave the following verdict:—"Died through want of nourishment, but whether occasioned by a deficiency of food, or by disease of the liver and spine brought on by improper food and drink, does not appear." The result of this verdict was that the father enforced payment from TEN burial clubs amounting to £34 3s., the actual cost of the funeral to him being at the utmost 30s.!

*Varnish to prevent rust in Iron or Steel.*—M. A. Vogel suggests that the oxidation of steel and iron is perfectly prevented by coating them with the following varnish. White wax, one part; dissolved in fifteen parts of Benzin. It is applied by means of a brush. The thin layer of wax forms a perfect covering which when needed may be removed. *Rep. de Pharm.*

*Railway accidents.*—A meeting of shareholders in railway companies was lately held in London to consider and endeavour to restrict, through legislative means, the awards for railway accidents, when it was stated that in one year, one railway company disbursed no less than £80,000 by way of compensation for accidents on their line, exclusive of law expenses, and the cost arising from damage to the rolling stock, and the permanent way.—*Dublin Med. Press.*

*Sea Sickness.*—Mr. Hockins recommends in the *Lancet* the following mixture, as more efficacious than any treatment which he had previously adopted. "Dilute Hydrochloric Acid, two drachms; Dilute Nitric Acid, one drachm; Hydrocyanic Acid, (Scheeles) sixteen minims; Sulphate of Magnesia, six drachms; water to eight ounces. Two table spoonsful every three or four hours." It should be preceded by a purgative, and associated with a mild diet.

*Rarity of amputations in the London Hospitals.*—A London contemporary remarks. "At King's College it is now a rare thing to see an amputation, and Mr. Ferguson asserts that in almost nine cases out of ten, excision should be performed in its stead. He says the risk to the patient's life is not greater; and if so, how great is the advantage of a real though stiff limb, to that of a false one."

*United States Sanitary Commission.*—The U. S. Government appointed a few months ago a sanitary commission to regulate all matters connected with the hygiene, &c., &c., of the troops. The *American Medical Times* says, "that it has proved itself a most important auxiliary to the government in the prosecution of the war." What is apparently wanted is means to carry out its benevolent objects and plans, and an appeal is made to the profession for that purpose.

*New test for Sulphur.*—A dilute solution of Molybdate of Ammonia in Hydrochloric acid possesses, according to Schlossberger, the property of colouring blue, if traces of Sulphur be present. By this test the presence of Sulphur can be detected in a single hair.—*Chemist.*

*Another new metal.*—Whilst investigating the new metal *cæsium*, Bunsen has lately discovered another metal, which seems to resemble potassium as closely as *cæsium* does. It has a very high atomic weight, its hydrate is deliquescent and highly caustic, its carbonate is strongly alkaline, and its nitrate anhydrous like nitrate of potassa, but, unlike that salt, its crystalline form is hexagonal. It was obtained from the saline residue from 44,000 kilogrammes of Dürkheim water, and subsequently from *lepidolite*.

*Nitrous and nitric acid in the atmosphere.*—By passing large volumes of air through carbonates of Potassa and Lead, Cloetz obtained the nitrates of these metals. Should this observation be confirmed by further experiments, con-