

butter should be of the best and taken cold. Bread, dry toast, biscuits, potatoes, and rice are good vehicles. Children well supplied with butter feel the cold less than others, and resist the influenza better. They do not "catch cold" so easily. In speaking of children I by no means intend to exclude other ages, especially young adults. Grown-up persons, however, take other animal fats more freely than most children do, and are besides allowed much freer selection as to both quality and quantity. It is not so necessary to raise any clamor for reform on their account. It may not be out of place to remark that if a greatly increased demand for fresh butter should result from a change of custom such as that suggested, it could easily be met by those concerned. There need be no increase in the cost of the article, whilst at the same time a benefit would be conferred on our home farmers.—*Hutchinson's Archives of Surgery*.

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.—It is curious to find that, something like the present day, theories of a struggle between the microbes and leucocytes must have been in vogue more than a century ago, otherwise this bit of satirical burlesque could scarcely have been written and played.

*Persons*—The Devil as Hellebore, President of the College; Dr. Last, a new Licentiate; other Doctors and Pupils.

*Hel.* . . . Proceed we now to the lecture! Brethren and students, I am going to open to you some notable discoveries that I have made respecting the source or primary cause of all distempers incidental to the human machine. And these, brethren, I attribute to certain animalculæ of piscatory entities, that insinuate themselves through the pores into the blood, and in that fluid, sport, toss, and tumble about, like mackerel or cod-fish in the great deep. And to convince you that this is not a mere *gratis dictum*, an hypothesis only, I will give you demonstrative proof. Bring hither the microscope!

*Enter a SERVANT with a microscope.*

Doctor Last, regard this receiver. Take a peep.

*Last.*—Where?

*Hel.*—There. Those two yellow drops there

were drawn from a subject afflicted with the jaundice.—Well, what d'ye see?

*Last.*—Some little creatures like yellow flies, that are hopping and skipping about.

*Hel.*—Right. Those yellow flies give the tinge to the skin, and undoubtedly cause the disease. And now for the cure! I administer to every patient the two-and-fiftieth part of a scruple of the ovaria or eggs of the spider; these are thrown by the digestive powers into the secretory, there separated from the alimentary, and then precipitated into the circulatory, where, finding a proper nidus or nest, they quit their torpid state, and vivify, and upon vivification, discerning the flies, their natural food, they immediately fall foul of them, extirpate the race out of the blood, and restore the patient to health.

*Last.*—And what becomes of the spiders?

*Hel.*—Oh, they die, you know, for want of nutrition. Then I send the patient down to Brighthelmston, and a couple of dips in the salt water washes the cobwebs entirely out of the blood.—From Foote's "*Devil on Two Sticks*."  
—*Edin. Med. Jour.*

THALLIN IN TYPHOID FEVER.—Dr. F. Schmidt, in his graduation thesis at Berne in 1889, reports the results which he obtained in the employment of thallin in twenty-two cases of typhoid fever, the remedy being given in doses varying from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 grains in a day, with nothing given at night. The following are his conclusions (*Les Nouveaux Remèdes*, July 24, 1890). (1) The mortality of typhoid fever treated by thallin is less than that obtainable by any other mode of treatment. (2) Thallin, in the doses above mentioned, distinctly reduces the temperature in cases of moderate intensity, but in typhoid fever of extreme gravity this dose is insufficient; it also would seem that the patients support thallin better than cold baths. (3) In general the duration of the disease is not diminished, although this effect would appear to occur in a few isolated cases. (4) No unfavorable secondary action was noted either on the heart or lungs; there was no collapse or irritation of the kidneys; nevertheless, basing his conclusions on the results obtained by other authors, Schmidt advises the withholding of thallin in all cases where renal lesions have been