

interested as regards not alone their own health and happiness, but that also of generations posterior to the present, it behoves the legislative body to step forward and interfere, that thousands may not suffer to gratify the cupidity of single individuals. All powerful also to do good and bring forth a rich harvest is early education respecting these matters. Let the science be taught in every school; let the evils arising from its neglect be shown to the young and rising generation; let those habits of cleanliness of person and household so necessary to health be made manifest; and finally let the children of the more responsible classes, upon whom may devolve the duty of landlord, or employer or both, learn that when manhood arrives and they become members of a wide spread community, bearing upon their shoulders the burthens of taxation, that for every widow and orphan by whom they are surrounded, an increased expenditure is necessary, and that the institution of sanitary measures in a country is a direct means not only to prolong their own lives, but that also of the humbler classes who look up to them for the means of support.

Montreal, March 1st, 1860.

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ART. XXXII.—*Cases in Surgery.* By HORACE NELSON, M. D., late Editor of "Nelson's American Lancet"; Former Professor of Surgery in the University of Vermont, &c., &c.

No. 4. *Impromptu Tracheotomy; a thumb-lancet, pocket-knife, and clay pipe the instruments. Recovery.*

"How many persons have perished, perhaps in an instant, and in the midst of a hearty laugh, the recital of an amusing anecdote, or the utterance of a funny joke, from the interception at the glottis of a piece of meat, a crumb of bread, a morsel of cheese, or a bit of potato, without a suspicion, on the part of those around, of the real nature of the case." *Foreign Bodies in the Air-Passages*, p. 43.

In exemplification of the above remarks of Prof. Gross, the recital of the following case may not prove uninteresting to the Readers of the *British American Journal*, at the same time that it shows what should or could be done in cases of great emergencies. On the 19th January, 1857, while coming from the Post Office, in Plattsburgh, I was stopped at the door of a grocery-tavern, and called in to meet Dr. Hall to see a man supposed to be dying. Stepping in, I found an old soldier, of the Peninsular War, named Davis, and for many years an inmate of the County Poor House, evidently expiring—his face was blue, suffused and bedewed with cold sweat; the eyes staring wide, fixed and glassy; the mouth opened; pulse just flickering at the wrist, in one word the cold hand of death was pressing upon him with fearful rapidity and certainty. In a few seconds I ascertained the following particulars:—that morning he had deserted—as was his wont frequently to do—from the Poor House, and came to the Village for a glass of grog, obtained upon the proceeds of begging from a few who pitied the lone and decrepid soldier; and on this occasion having been more than usually fortunate in his foraging expedition, he resolved to indulge in some-