

They know the preparations by name, but not by nature, and the only way to learn the latter is to don the apron and take a practical course from a practical and scientific cook. Such a course was inaugurated last winter in this city and in Boston with a very satisfactory result. The prospect for this season in this city is, that the course will be very well attended. It is the only way to learn. I could read you receipts by the score, but it would be as useless as reading off that many medical formulæ.—*Ibid.*

Dr. I. E. Atkinson (*Md. Med. Journal*) was much pleased with the results obtained when first using picric acid as a test for albumen in the urine. Later, he was surprised to find the reaction for albumen present in the urine of malarious patients, even when heat and nitric acid failed to show it. Following up a hint that this was caused by the presence of the cinchona salts, Drs. Cook and Watkins have embodied the results of their researches in a paper, in which they report that there is no question that patients taking cinchonidia give the same reaction with picric acid as if they had albuminuria.

ETHEROMANIA.—M. Sedan relates, in *Gaz. des Hôp.*, the case of a young boy, ten years of age, quick and brilliant intellectually; hard working and persevering, always at the head of his class, who attributed his intellectual success to the habit of drinking ether. He consumed from 20 to 30 up to 1,000 grammes of ether per diem—by the mouth as well as by inhalation. He used to rise from his ethereal drunkenness to solve the most difficult questions of higher mathematics.

THE injection of ergotin into the tissue over the spleen does not often give rise to abscess, and the liability to abscess may, I think, be in great measure avoided by painting the part where the injection is made, immediately afterwards, with tincture of iodine.—J. H. Hutchinson in *Phil. Med. Times*.

Dr. W. H. HENDERSON, of Kingston, has been elected a life member of the Ophthalmological Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

## Surgery:

### IMMEDIATE TREATMENT OF FRACTURES BY PLASTER-OF-PARIS BANDAGE.

By CHRISTOPHER DEATH, F.R.C.S.

The object of my paper is to point out that many other fractures besides those of the leg may be most conveniently and satisfactorily treated by plaster-of-Paris bandages or splints, though I prefer the former.

A late American surgeon and friend of mine, Dr. Cowling, of Louisville, published, shortly before his death, three years since, a little book entitled *Aphorisms on Fracture*, of great value from its shrewd common-sense, from which I will venture to make a few brief quotations.

"Aphorism 38.—Carved and manufactured splints generally fit nobody, and are to be rejected, as not only expensive, but damaging."

"Aphorism 41.—The application of the roller bandage immediately to the skin, whether as a protective or to prevent muscular spasm, has resulted in such disaster, that it is one of the curiosities of surgery how it could be repeated at this day. When cotton is placed over such a bandage, it forms an absurdity scarcely credible in a man of ordinary sense."

"Aphorism 44.—Continued extension and counter-extension are, as a rule, not necessary to prevent shortening in fractures. This is best done by removing the causes which lead to muscular spasm; first by early and as complete reposition of the fragments as possible; second, by the smooth application of cotton batting to the limb; third, by the equal pressure of a bandage extending from the distal end of the limb to a point beyond the joint above the fracture; fourth, by the accurate fitting of the splints or plastic material for support; fifth, by as little interference afterward as possible."

Mr. Gamgee has for so long advocated in this country the advantages of fixation and compression in the treatment of fractures, that it may appear superfluous to go at all over the same ground again; but my object is to induce surgeons to have more faith in the early treatment of fractures by plaster-of-Paris than appears as yet at all general, and thus to save their patients and themselves an infinity of trouble.