

on oriental paper, and although it was once in the library of Narcissus Marsh, Archbishop of Dublin, and published in his catalogue of oriental MSS., appears to have escaped the attention of the learned, until attention was called to the fact by the editor of the *Medical Times and Gazette* some twenty years ago, that it was in the Bodleian library. Its translation was undertaken by Drs. Adams and Greenhill, but the decease of the former interrupted the labour until the present time, when we are gratified to learn that it has been resumed by Dr. Greenhill, and will be presented to the profession at an early day.

Its discovery, after a lapse of eighteen centuries, should certainly encourage us in the hope that some of the writings of the early fathers in medicine now regarded as lost may be brought to light by searching the catalogues of oriental literature which has accumulated upon the shelves of the public libraries of Europe.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

## Canada Lancet.

MONTREAL, JUNE 15, 1864.

No one, we think, who peruses Professor Mitchell's remarks in this and a previous number of the *Canada Lancet*, can help acknowledging the truthfulness of the deductions advanced. Medical men do such cases every day of their lives—for who of us but are constantly administering antagonistic doses of medicines in all the severer forms of maladies? Is not the giving of excessive quantities of brandy in cholera, fever, diphtheria, &c., the antagonism of poison to disease? Is it not the same antagonism that enables the system to endure such large and frequent doses of potash in rheumatism, quinine in diphtheria, or tartar emetic in croup? Or, better still, digitalis or opium in delirium tremens; or worara or Calabar bean in tetanus?

The antagonism of poison to poison admits of similar proof. We well remember, in our younger days, attempting the life of a cat with strychnia: when, wishing to put a speedier end to its sufferings we charitably administered a drachm of Scheele to terminate them. Much to our surprise the animal looked up, arose, and walked quietly and unconcernedly away; it recovered completely. We need scarcely add, we never repeated the experiment. It lived for years, and the old adage of the number of lives possessed by a cat seemed firmly established.

It is but lately that poisoning by strychnia occurred in this city. A man in despair swallowed four grains and a half, or thereabouts, of this alkaloid. After inhaling a pound of chloroform he recovered; gin and chloroform saved him; the former was taken as a vehicle for the poison, and delayed the convulsions for hours. After its ex-

haustion, a medical man kept up the antagonism by means of the chloroform, which, had the draught of the spirit been larger, would doubtless never have been required. Or had he administered two drachms of the agent by way of the stomach, its toxic power would have nicely balanced the remainder of the strychnia, and the antagonism of the poisons been instant and perfect, and his patient been saved a deal of suffering.

Old as we are in our knowledge of the action of medicines, we are still in our infancy in that of the counter-balancing power and doses of poisons. And accident or venture is slowly revealing to us in man what should long since have been accurately determined in a lower order of animals. The experience, valuable as it is, is therefore costing us dearly: nor can we arrive at much of the most valuable in our generation by these means alone, for chance or hazard may require an age to reveal to us such antagonistic doses as prussic acid for strychnia, or arsenic for hydrophobia. We sadly need experimenters in this field of labour. In the meanwhile we thank Professor Mitchell for his able contribution, which we hope will be conducive to farther inquiry.

**TETANUS IN THE U. S. ARMY.**—Tetanus is prevailing among the wounded of the Army of the Potomac to an unusual extent. Upwards of fifty cases occurred within a short period at Fredericksburg and in the hospitals at Washington; nearly every one of which proved rapidly fatal. We are glad to learn that Dr. Brown-Squard of London, now in this country, has consented to give a lecture on this disease, at Washington, where it is most prevalent. The great experience of this eminent physiologist in the treatment of nervous affections will thus be made available to the army surgeons in the management of this obscure and fatal complication of gunshot wounds. The lecture will be immediately published for circulation in the army.—*American Medical Times.*

### Uterine.

**THE NERVOUS AND VASCULAR CONNECTION BETWEEN THE MOTHER AND FETUS IN UTERO.** By John O'Reilly, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., 8vo., pp. 76, New York, 1864.

That in pregnant women powerful impressions on the mind frequently produce deformities in the fetus is a fact too long known and well established to require comment. Our author after citing numerous cases from such authorities as Professors Moth, Post, Carnochan, Budd, Gilman, Hamilton, and others, deduces from them that there must be a nervous connection between the mother and child as one merely vascular could never produce such results. If this assumption be correct, it only requires a few careful dissections to demonstrate it and render it an established fact.

The same may be said with regard to his opinion of the direct vascular connection. We find indeed that Dr. O'Reilly's views on many subjects differ from those generally held, and none more so than