

medical profession and for which physicians themselves are responsible. I refer to the craze for therapeutic novelties—the mad rush for new remedies that has been observable for the last few years.

It is a deplorable fact that manufacturers are not more eager to sell their new, fancifully named products than physicians are to prescribe them. Scientific conservatism has been flung to the winds and a spirit of reckless experimentation seems to have taken possession of the profession. The pharmacologists and chemists are merely profiting by the occasion. The credulity and the recklessness of physicians means dollars and cents to the manufacturers. As between the latter and the physicians who prescribe their nostrums and by whose encouragement and patronage they thrive, the manufacturers are the less culpable.

It is indeed "time to speak plainly and act courageously." It is time for such leaders in true medical progress as *The News* to call a halt upon the present reckless, indiscriminate, and dangerous practice of prescribing new and untried pharmaceutical products. It is not because of this tendency, but in spite of it, the real advance in modern therapeutics has been made. No "new remedy" should find a place in the armamentarium of the private practitioner until its physiological and therapeutic actions have been carefully studied and its value proved by observers of unquestioned competency.—George Emerson Shuey, M.D., in *Med. News*.

PISTOL SHOT WOUND OF THE BRAIN.—Joseph Ransohoff, M.D.—*The Cincinnati Lancet Clinic*. A young man, æt. 20, fired a twenty-two caliber ball into his left temple, and fell to the ground pale and excited, but conscious. The wound, two inches behind the external angular process and an inch above the zygoma, was filled with a blood clot; no oozing; pulse and respiration normal; pupils active and equal. Paraphasia was present. An antiseptic dressing was applied for the night, but by morning his condition had changed for the worse, delirium setting in, pulse hard and frequent; temperature 101°.

An exploratory trephining was made by enlarging the entrance of the wound and exposing the irregular opening in the skull which showed the edges blackened, and roughened. With a half-inch trephine and rongeur the opening was increased to nearly an inch, freely exposing the small, blackened aperture in the dura. The head now being placed on the right side, and an examination being made with an acorn-tipped hollow wire bougie, it revealed the fact that the bullet had followed an inward course, deviating downward and slightly forward. There were two spiculæ of bone at the depth of an inch and a half, which were removed. A bony surface arrested the

course of the probe at the depth of two inches, but nothing was seen or felt of the ball. But slight hæmorrhage was met with which was easily controlled. A drainage tube was carried into the depth of the sinus, and the external wound closed by sutures and loosely packed with sterilized gauze about the tube.

The first dressing with drainage tube was not removed for eight days, and after second dressing the wound healed entirely. The delirium did not return at any time, temperature was not above normal, and the process of wound repair was without a flaw. Five months afterward the patient was in perfect health and resumed work.

TEA-TIPPLING.—In an editorial on tea-tipping the *Lancet* says: We desire to assist in impressing upon women especially the fact that the immoderate use of their favorite beverage is fraught with considerable danger to health, and that this is especially true of those who lead for the most part an in-door life. Too often, unfortunately, conviction that the habit is injurious comes only after the break down, and the harm which has been done takes a good deal of undoing. It is idle to argue that Australian shepherds or half-savage Tartars drink tea in immoderate quantities, and are none the worse for it. Their mode of life enables them to do many things—we shall not say with impunity—which town dwellers cannot do, and we are convinced that no one living for the most part an in-door city life can continue to indulge freely in tea five or six times a day without suffering for it in the end. Whether or not "envy, malice, and all uncharitableness" are, as some assert, productive of indigestion, there is no doubt that excessive tea-drinking is, and for our own part we are inclined to think that indigestion is at least as often the parent as it is the child of the vices which have been mentioned.—*Med. Rec.*

DRINK AND THE DEATH RATE.—The relation of drink consumption to the death rate formed the subject of a communication recently made to the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association by Mr. Meacham, district medical officer. The reporter recorded it as his experience of thirty years of work among all classes of the people, that a very large percentage of disease is directly attributable to the influence of alcohol. In congested parts of the city this was especially the case, and he urged on the association the duty that rested on it, of doing all that lay in its power to aid the corporation of Manchester in the efforts that were being made to promote temperance principles among the masses. Mr. Meacham attributed 21 per cent of pauperism met with to the hereditary influences resulting from drink excesses. He had compared the children of drunkards with those of temperate parents and found that the latter possessed vast