

them with success in the algidity and cramps of cholera.—(*Union Médicale*) *London Med. Times*, Aug. 8th.

OPERATION FOR EXTENSIVE LOSS OF SKIN IN THE ARM, JOSEPH BELL.—In 1883, N. L., during a very severe attack of phlegmonous erysipelas, lost the greater part of the skin of the inside of his right arm, from the posterior fold of the axilla down to within three inches of the wrist-joint. He came under my care with the view of having an amputation performed at or near the shoulder-joint. After months of treatment, however, by skin grafting, rest, etc., cicatrization had progressed, till only a wound about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by 1 broad remained inside of elbow-joint. This refused to heal any further, a dense cicatrix ringed in the arm for about three inches of its length, and the tissues around were constantly reopening. He again was admitted in June, 1885, requesting amputation. I thought it a pity to sacrifice a good hand, so determined to shorten the limb. This I did by cutting down upon the humerus three inches above the elbow-joint behind, and removing subperiosteally the whole lower three inches, including the condyles and cartilage, and also the olecranon. He has now a useful arm with full flexion, extension, pronation, and supination, shortened barely two inches, and healed.—*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, Sept.

A STRONG ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF VACCINATION.—Among the many queries which the present extensive revival of vaccination has raised, is the one relating to the effect of vaccination upon one who has already had small-pox or varioloid. We have been somewhat surprised to find that vaccination "takes" with those who have had small-pox, two or three such cases having come under notice. Upon inquiring of a physician, whose position at the Board of Health has given him a wide opportunity for observation, he assured us without hesitation that after small-pox vaccination will take always, and in the primary form. Moreover, that vaccination is a surer safeguard from small-pox than small-pox itself, for he knew of instances where unvaccinated individuals had had the disease two or three times. This information is therefore of great importance, for most people who have had small-pox, feel that they are sealed with an immunity greater than a life-time of continued vaccination could purchase for them.—*Med. Record*.

THE TREATMENT OF NIGHT SWEATS.—I send herewith a prescription for night sweats, which I have used for many years and found to be very efficient. It is very rare that more than three pills in the twenty-four hours are necessary to promptly stop the trouble; and, notwithstanding the fact

that these pills are directed only for the relief of a disagreeable symptom, many patients suffering from phthisis declare that they are of real benefit in aiding a case of the disease, and continue to persist in their use long after night sweats have ceased.

This prescription I have found very efficient, also, in relieving the nervous prostration that is so often seen in those who drink alcoholic liquors to excess:

R.—Oxide of zinc, gr. 12
Pyrogallic acid, gr. 24
Sulphate of atropia, gr. 1-24
Extract of lupulin, gr. 48

Mix.—Make 24 pills and silver coat.—Dose, one pill three times a day, soon after meals.

—Dr. Smith, in *Gaillard's Medical Journal*.

STYPTIC OR HÆMOSTATIC ETHER.—Dr. B. Ward Richardson gives us an ether which, while checking hæmorrhage by cold, overcomes the subsequent relaxation of the vessels by its constringing action. He has had prepared a solution of absolute ether, having a boiling point of 95° Fah., charged to saturation at a low temperature with tannin, and afterwards treated with collodion, a little short of saturation. The compound ran easily through the spray tube without blocking; it produced good local anæsthesia, and it possessed an agreeable odor. He tested it in a few drachms of blood which had been deprived of its fibrin by whipping, and then left for two days exposed to the air until it underwent partial decomposition. The blood was placed in a saucer at the temperature of the body, the spray made to play upon it, and in five seconds the whole mass of blood was so thoroughly solidified that the saucer could be turned upside down without any escape of fluid. The blood was also deodorized, and remained inodorless for ten days.

When styptic spray is directed on an open bleeding, living surface, the primary effects are those produced by the cold—namely, the condensation and whitening of the tissues. If blood be flowing, it solidifies, and when the parts relax, new blood that may ooze up enters the solid blood as though it were a sponge, the coagulation soon stopping further flow.

The elements of this process are three in number:

1. The immediate constringent effects of cold on the blood-vessels.
2. The styptic action of the solution on the fibrin and albumen of the blood.
3. The extreme mechanical fineness of distribution of the fluid on the bleeding surface.

Styptic ether can also be applied to the hæmorrhagic surface after the extraction of a tooth, for hæmorrhage from cancerous disease of the uterus or other cause; and in cases of hæmorrhage from piles.—*The Asclepiad*, July, 1885.