

the matter as an exaggerated legend, but for my own part, I see no reason why it should not in reality be founded on fact. There is little doubt that the Asiatic prisoners were well acquainted with the infectious qualities of certain fevers and malignant diseases. Now, these very malignant diseases answer precisely to the description of a poison which has no immediate effects. Plant small-pox in the body of a man, and for a whole fortnight he walks about, well and hearty. Clothe a person with a garment soaked in typhus, and the same thing occurs, for many days there will be no sign of failure. Again, the gipsies, speaking a tongue which is essentially a deformed *prakrit*, and therefore Indian in origin, have long possessed a knowledge of the properties of the curious "*mucor phycomyces*." This was considered an algae by Agron, but Mr. Berkeley refers it to the fungi. The gipsies are said to have administered the spores of this fungi in warm water. In this way they rapidly attach themselves to the mucous membrane of the throat; all the symptoms of a phthisis follow, and death takes place in from two to three weeks. Mr. Berkeley informs me that he has seen specimens growing on broth which had been rejected from the stomach, and that it develops in enormous quantities on oil casks and walls impregnated with grease. The filaments are long, from 12 to 18 inches, and it is capable of very rapid development.

ANNALS OF SURGERY, A MONTHLY REVIEW OF SURGICAL SCIENCE AND PRACTICE, edited by L. S. Pilcher, A.M., M.D., of Brooklyn, N.Y., and C. B. Keetly, F.R.C.S., of London, England, is a most reliable work, published, monthly, and simultaneously in Great Britain and the United States: London, Baillière, Tindall and Cox; St. Louis, J. H. Chambers & Co. Besides valuable original papers, a large portion of the work is taken up with an "Index of Surgical Progress." In the March number is a continuation of articles on "the present state of knowledge in bacterial science in its surgical relations," and another on the transfusion and reinfusion of blood, both very interesting; the latter referring to Dr. Duncan's practice of the reinfusion of the blood taken from an amputated limb, referred to elsewhere. An operation for covering the left hand with skin transplanted from the chest is described; the skin of the hand having

been nearly all stripped off by machinery. A band of skin ten inches long was dissected up from the chest and the hand thrust beneath the band. In an extract by F. H. Hamilton (N.Y.), on the primary adhesion of large incised (cut) wounds we are told that, "The conditions requisite to secure primary union are considered to be (1) fair health, especially the absence of any systemic infection or dyscrasy (2) The removal from the wound of foreign bodies, among which are included blood and serum; (3) The effusion of a moderate amount of coagulable lymph, and (4) no unnecessary violence to the parts in operating." To secure good results "the utmost care and attention to details is required of the operator, the lack of which was the most frequent cause of failure" After a tribute to the value of hot water as a means of imparting a healthy stimulus to paralyzed tissues, of arresting capillary hemorrhage, of removing the blood from the surface of the wound, exposing the ends of the vessels to the ligature, and of coagulating the albumen, while, unlike carbolic acid, corrosive sublimate and the like, it is absolutely innocuous, the writer closes by expressing his belief that the tide of professional opinion is setting strongly toward a rejection of the doctrines of Lister.

ST. NICHOLAS, for February, has a rich table of contents. "Fish-spearing through the ice," shows how some clever boys improved on an ingenious Indian mode of fishing. Mrs. Burnett continues her entertaining story of "Little Lord Fauntleroy," and tells how he returned to the home of his ancestors. Frank R. Stockton "Personally Conducts" the reader into many queer and interesting places "Around the Bay of Naples." There are two interesting letters on the subject of "Curved Pitching," and in the "Agassiz Association," Prof. W. O. Crosby of the Boston Society of Natural History, begins a free course of instruction in mineralogy, with practical experiments, open to all readers of the Magazine. In "The Firm of Big Brain, Little Brain & Co.," Frank Bellew tells, in a funny way, "a few simple things about the brain." W. W. E. gives the following valentine:

The sun and the moon are miles apart,
Millions and millions, too;
But if those old bodies had half a heart,
They never could stand it so far apart,
I know, I couldn't—could you?

But I have just heard—(and I think she's right)
What the dear old Earth opines;
That the sun shines down on some stars each
night,
And shoots them off, when they're polished
bright,
To the Moon for Valentines!