

and both were quickly improved in their condition by the Br. ars.

I first saw favorable reports of this remedy in the *Br. Med. Jour.* in 1883 or 1884, and in 1884 I noticed that Austin Flint, jr., had been using it with success. He insisted on a strict regulation of the diet and said then "Clemen's Solution of the Bromide of Arsenic appears to be useful," and recommended it in doses of from three to five drops given in water three times a day after meals, and stating that it might be continued for weeks and months without any unfavorable effects, "but" he added "the administration of this remedy does not supply the place of dietetic treatment which should be enforced in all cases." (*Can. Lan.* Nov. 1884, p. 88). In the *Br. Med. Jour.* 1885, p. 701, the same gentleman is reported as having said "diabetes has become to-day a disease easily and certainly curable, provided the treatment be not begun too late; and the treatment referred to, was strict regulation of diet and Clemen's Sol. Br. Ars.

From my limited experience I am in accord with Dr. Flint on the importance of the regulated dietary, and think with him that the bromide of arsenic is a valuable medicine in diabetes, but I cannot go the length of saying that I believe diabetes to be easily and certainly curable by it.

Sulphide of calcium and jambol have recently been brought forward as curative agents in this disease, but I have had no experience with them.

I need say nothing respecting a diet list, as every systematic work on medicine contains all that is needed. Charteris' little book, Pepper's System of Medicine, "The Home Practical Physician," and many others, give convenient and valuable lists.

Milk was long a questionable article of diet, but all authorities now agree that skimmed milk is not only permissible but is a valuable addition to the dietary. I have ventured to suggest Koumyss as a drink for diabetics, from its composition as given by the manufacturers of it in Toronto.

NOTE.—Since the foregoing article was in the Printer's hand I had a letter from R. B., in which he says he is feeling well and working hard. Mr. A. was at my surgery a few evenings ago and expressed himself as feeling much stronger and very well. Both are now using the Bromide of Arsenic alone.

THE PROGRESS OF MEDICINE.*

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President of the Association.

After thanking the Association for the honor conferred upon him in electing him as their presiding officer, he alluded to the historic associations of the City of Quebec, and said, in this land there is arising a temple whose foundation is based upon the accumulated labors of some of the greatest architects of human happiness. Their names shine with brilliancy unabated all down through the vista of past years, and animate and enlighten all who labor in the same profession, and emulate their achievements. We are the privileged architects of this temple of medicine in our country and generation, and I trust that the marks of our skill may not be indistinguishable in the rising edifice. The progress of scientific medicine in the recent past is the result very largely of the development of the science of biology which has done so much to establish medicine on a scientific basis. Until the study of life in its elementary forms was rendered possible by modern instruments of precision, empiricism necessarily entered largely into all medical progress, and it was maintained as an opprobrium that medicine was no more than an enlightened empiricism. This is true, but it could not have been otherwise since, until the birth of biology as a science, medical knowledge had either to remain at a stand-still or to progress by a series of empirical jumps which sometimes left it in a more advanced state of usefulness, and sometimes failed to do so even in the slightest degree. Although empiricism in medicine has been such a laborious means of advancement, we must admit that it generally contained some grains of truth, and that when it failed to accomplish what was expected of it, the reason of the failure lay, not in the worthlessness of the efforts at progress, but in the difficulty of separating the grains of truth from the abundant chaff in which it was contained. Each new fashion, while it has contained some truth, has failed and given place to another little in advance, not because it contained no truth, but because the truth it did contain was incomplete. When, however, the study of biology was es-

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