

tried. One was the hypodermic injection of morphia over the region of the stomach, and the other was the injection of beef essence and brandy into the rectum. On the next day we again visited our patient. The remedies had done no good. She vomited, as ever, the little ice-water she took, and the injections could not be retained at all.

Dr. P. then ascertained by examination with the finger that there was granular erosion of the cervix, and was of the opinion that nothing effectual could be done short of abortion. Of the various methods recommended for that purpose, he determined to employ that of puncturing the membranes for the following reasons: "The child was not viable and could not be saved. I have known cases, when the child was viable, as in the eighth or nine month of pregnancy, and when I brought on premature labour to allay excessive and uncontrollable vomiting, that the vomiting did cease, almost immediately after the rupture of the membranes and before the emptying of the uterus.

"With a small-sized uterine sound I punctured the membranes. On the evening Dr. Alleyne called for me and told me that in an hour after the operation, she took, with decided appetite, some beefsteak and retained it; at night she did the same, and when we saw her in the morning, she and her mother informed us that she had slept well, and that she had a good appetite, having eaten various things for breakfast. About forty-eight hours after the operation the fetus and secundines came away, and she made a rapid recovery.

"I am aware that there is high authority against the emptying of the uterus in cases of excessive vomiting during pregnancy. I am aware, too, of the sudden and favourable changes which sometimes take place in such cases. The experienced physician can often foresee that such will be the result, and he will persevere with his remedies. I will admit that it does happen, even when he despairs. But it also happens, that although our patients occasionally get well, when we expect them to die, on the other hand, they sometimes die when we expect them to get well. We must reason from a general rule, and not from an exception."

MEDICAL NEWS.

At the meeting for 1873 of the Boylston Medical Committee, prizes of one hundred and fifty dollars each were awarded to David T. Lincoln, M.D., of Boston, for a dissertation on "Electro-Therapeutics," and to William C. Dabney, M.D., of Charlottesville, Virginia, for a dissertation on "The Value of Chemistry to the Medical Practitioner."

Whether the American politician is or is not a great sinner he certainly receives such a share of abuse that it is to be hoped he is both pachydermatous and philosophic: to give him due credit, he must be, as he really seems to keep on the even tenor of his way unmoved. It has been reserved for our venerable and dignified contemporary, the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, to give the "most unkindest cut of all." In a recent editorial full of wrath at the virtuous teetallers, it says, "We are actually subjected to those daily outrages by a miserable set of pig- and bean-fed politicians,"—an evident allusion to the windy and odourous nature of the food aforesaid. Alas for the flatulent politicians!—Philadelphia Medical Times.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, of Philadelphia, was the recipient of a complimentary dinner on his return from Europe, recently, given by some of his professional brethren.

The consulting practitioners of London congregate together chiefly in a few streets and squares most centrally situated: this is chiefly a matter of convenience, and to some extent perhaps of fashion. Brook street, Harley street, Grosvenor street, and Queen Anne street, and the neighbouring squares, are the great centres of medical residence for the leading metropolitan practitioners.

At a late meeting of the Preston sanitary authority a memorial was read from the inhabitants of Ashton-on-Ribble, complaining that a certain stable in the public road was used for the purpose of slaughtering all descriptions of diseased and unsound animals. The following passage in the petition of the memorialists is painfully suggestive of sausages:—"We further understand that not only is the killing of diseased animals carried on at this place, but there are also a number of Germans engaged in the manufacture of some kind of food from this unwholesome flesh."

SIR HENRY THOMPSON.

The Highland holiday of our London physicians and surgeons has been interrupted by an incident productive of some rather curious illustrations of professional practice and feeling. A very well-known and wealthy man, who has many friends and personal acquaintances among consulting practitioners in London, was seized with a very severe illness at his hunting-lodge. His friend Sir Henry Thompson was near at hand, and was summoned. He came over at once, and, finding his friend dangerously ill, was fain to stay with him in his hour of need, and began a close attendance, which lasted for nine days and nights. He was offered, on resigning the case to Sir William Jenner, who was summoned by telegraph, a check for a thousand guineas, but steadfastly refused to take any fee whatever, alleging that he had attended solely as a friend and would not otherwise have undertaken a case of the kind. This is the second time during a few months that the same surgeon has returned a check for a thousand guineas from motives of delicacy. I have mentioned in a previous letter that, knowing that the family of the ex-Emperor Napoleon were not in possession of large means, he returned a fee of a thousand guineas in that case. It is not often that the same surgeon receives fees so large as to afford the opportunity of dealing with them in a manner so splendidly liberal and delicate, and perhaps it is as rare that he should insist upon doing so. But Sir Henry Thompson is in receipt of an exceptionally large income from the successful practice of his profession, and he is a man of great decision, clearness and liberality of mind. He is a man who has reason to be satisfied with his career, and of whom we in England have reason to be proud. Commencing the study of surgery rather late in life, and not graduating, I believe, till the age of thirty, he has by the sheer force of intellect and work won his way to the highest eminence and success in practice, to a fine fortune, a splendid social position, and a world-wide reputation. He is still a young man, and his career has been as rapid as it has been brilliant. Nor has it involved any great sacrifice of other pleasures and pursuits. He is an artist of high attainments,—perhaps the best amateur in oil-painting in England: his pictures are not only well hung at the most difficult and eminent of our exhibitions,—the Royal Academy,—but command a fair market price against those of professional artists, when he is disposed to part with any of them. He is an excellent writer, and a man of thoughtful habit on other than medical subjects: his paper in the Contemporary Review on the Efficacy of Prayer, addressed to Professor Tyndall, opened up the controversy of which the echoes reached your continent; and he has all the other accomplishments, as a sportsman, etc., which suit the character of an English gentleman. This brief outline of the elements of a singularly successful character and career is only noteworthy as affording encouragement to others and furnishing the materials for contemporary history.—[London letter in Philadelphia Medical Times.

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