

We have often mentioned, in the pages of the Journal, the disposition that exists for falling into extremes, in the adoption and practice of theories; and it does seem that this new theory of ulceration, induration, &c., of the cervix uteri, was having its votaries to the fullest extent. There can be no doubt that many a cervix uteri is charged upon with the cautery, when as exempt from disease as it was at the birth. More anon.

[Boston Med. & Surgical Jour.]

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A PHYSIOLOGICAL PROBLEM.—It has been observed, that persons who have lost a limb, or a part of one, are at times very much troubled with an intolerable *itching*, or sometimes *pain*, in the fingers or toes of the extremity which is lost. A case of this kind lately presented itself to us for advice, which, being a little out of the common course, we have thought proper to give to our readers. A young man had his hand amputated just above the wrist, on account of having it shattered by the bursting of a gun. This happened some two years since, and the deficiency is supplied by a wooden hand. At times, he tells us that he has the most intolerable *itching between these wooden fingers*, in fact insupportable, and, to use his own words, he would give a hundred dollars for the chance to give them a scratching. At other times, he has much pain where the fingers *should be*, and he can only obtain relief by *altering their position*. When free from the pain or itching, he can discover no difference between that hand and the sound one. He can will the fingers of the lost hand to act, and they seem to obey. At times, the *ends* of the fingers are quite numb and cold; being partly flexed, he feels that he has not the power to extend them. There are other phenomena connected with this case, which, with those we have given, would be very difficult to account for on physiological principles.

[Boston Med. & Surgical Jour.]

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OBSTACLES TO THE DIFFUSION OF VACCINATION.—Although the poor are now vaccinated gratuitously, and ample means are provided by the Poor-law Board for carrying out the intentions of the legislature, an unaccountable prejudice still exists against vaccination. Some of the objections to it are excuses for negligence; others are based on a sort of fatalism; but others, again, amount to almost criminal neglect. The Registrar for Nottingham states that a woman in his district who had lost a child by disease, assured him that she would rather lose half a dozen children by it, than *fly in the face of Providence in having one vaccinated!*

[London Medical Gazette.]