

for whom, in a small English town, Scott had sent on behalf of his sick servant. In the doctor, Scott, to his amazement, recognized a Scottish blacksmith, who had formerly practised as a veterinary operator. "How in the world" exclaimed Sir Walter, "came you here? Can it be possible this is John Lundie?" "In truth it is, your honor, just a' thats for him," "well, let us hear, you were a horse doctor before; now it seems you are a man doctor, how do you get on?" "Oh, just extraordinar' well, for your honor maun ken that my practice is vera sure and orthodox. I depend entirely on twa simples." "And what may their names be? Perhaps it's a secret." "I'll tell your honor" (in a low voice) "my twa simples are just laudamy and calamy;" "simples with a vengeance!" replied Sir Walter, "but, John, do you never happen to kill any of your patients?" "Kill, ou ay, may be sae, whiles they dee, and whiles no; but it's will o' Providence. Onyho, your honor, it will be lang before it maks up for Flodden!"

DROPSICAL EFFUSIONS.

Dr. Charles Burr, of Carbondale, Pa., (*Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter*) tells us, in the *Pennsylvania State Transactions*, that he used to feel quite uncertain when called to a case of dropsy, but now he "can smile and promise a speedy cure." The reason of this change is his adopting in all such cases the following prescription:—

℞ Infus. digitalis, f ʒ iv
Potassæ acetatis, ʒ ss. M.

Dose—For an adult a tablespoonful, for a child a teaspoonful, every two hours.

If this prescription will exercise generally so happy an effect on physician and patients, our readers will thank us for reproducing it. We are very doubtful, however, of its universal efficacy.

LONGEVITY.

A remarkable case of longevity is reported in Virchow's *Archiv*, by Dr. OrNSTEIN of Athens. The man, George Stravarides, died in Smyrna, at the age of 132 years. Although this Methuselah had always lived an irregular life, and had consumed an average of more than a hundred drachms of brandy daily, he retained full possession of all his five senses, as also a complete set of teeth, up to the moment of his death. He also continued to the last to attend to the duties of his avocation—a

baker. This man was born in 1743, in the reign of Mahmud I, and lived during the reigns of nine sultans.

—The Russian army, on January 1, 1876, had 2102 surgeons, 250 apothecaries, 6887 assistant surgeons, and 173 veterinary surgeons. This gives one surgeon for every 407 men, one apothecary for every 3454 men, and one assistant surgeon for every 161 men.

MEDICAL ITEMS.

The death of Dr. Arthur Jacobs of Dublin is announced. He was born in 1790. His memory will be kept alive by the "membrana Jacobi" of the eye. He was the founder and original editor of the *Dublin Medical Press and Circular*.

Our contemporary, the *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, occasionally gives its readers a *feu d'esprit* at the expense of the homœopaths, who, however, no doubt enjoy them as much as their "allopathic brethren." The following is the latest: A homœopathic doctor of Cairo, Ill., writes to the homœopathic journal of Chicago that he has been suffering for twelve years with neuralgic pains, resulting from a fall from a horse. He says: "I have used *Aconite* low, *Ars.* high and low, *Arnica* high and low, *Bry.* high and low, *Merc. Viv.* and *Bin-iod.* low, *Kali-hid.* low, and *Canth.* high and low, and nothing but counter irritation and rest ever gave me any relief. Will any of my professional brethren suggest a remedy?"—We will suggest a remedy on the principle of *similia similibus*. Take a strong bottle filled with water and let it fall from a horse as nearly as possible in the way you yourself fell. Take one drop of the water thus medicated, potentize it low, and smell it. If that should not cure you try it high.

MARRIAGES.

At Quebec, on the 31st October, at the St. Louis chapel, Basilica, by Monseigneur Cazeau, P. Arthur Shee, C.M., M.D., Inverness, Megantic, to Marion, only daughter of the late James Lynch, lumber merchant.

BIRTHS.

In Montreal, on the 8th December, the wife of Alexander Proudfoot, M.D., of a son.

In Lindsay, Ont., on the 27th November, the wife of Dr. Kempt, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

In Brantford, Ont., on the 2nd of November, Reginald Digby, second son of Dr. Henwood, aged 19 years.