

its effects in 150 cases of pneumonia, and claims to have reduced the mortality from 25 per cent., for the previous thirty years, to 10.5 per cent., chiefly by these means. This is a very favorable result, but yet not equal to those obtained under the so-called moderate antiphlogistic treatment of a former period. The drugs, such as quinine, antipyrin, antifibrin, etc., he seldom used. He does not regard moderate fever an unmixed evil, but considers it retroactive and conservative, and, unless in excess, thinks no good purpose is served by suppressing it. Hydro-therapy is not, by any means, a new thing, but was employed many years ago in excessive fevers, inflammatory, and others, in connection with the then moderate antiphlogistic treatment by many successful and distinguished physicians. We should, therefore, employ so safe and reliable a remedy, when evidently demanded, while we hasten to retrace our steps wherein experience has shown that we have deviated from the true road, and return to the methods of treatment which have evidently produced the most desirable results.

FREE TRADE IN SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

The question as to whether our Government should impose a duty on all surgical instruments and appliances imported, is one of deep interest to all the members of the profession. It is a fact generally admitted, that no profession at the present day does as much work for charity, both within and without eleemosynary institutions, as ours. True, work done in hospitals and kindred institutions is generally undertaken with the idea of obtaining for the physician or surgeon a wider scope and larger field of operation whereby he may add to his stock of knowledge, and advance as well the interests of his profession and of science, as his own. Outside charity practice is by no means so satisfactory. There the medical attendants have to combat poverty, ignorance, want of proper nursing and all the kindred enemies to scientific treatment, so that few do such work for any other reason than that common humanity demands it. In no other profession, perhaps, is the need of skilled labor so urgent, as in that of medicine. It would be useless to continue this argument, for

both the profession and the public know that every doctor does a great deal of work for which he never expects to be remunerated, in this world at least. When it is a matter of giving his time and professional skill, the doctor is in a certain sense bound to fly to the aid of the distressed, whether he expects to be paid or not; but it is surely too much to ask him to spend his substance in the purchase of expensive instruments and appliances for the performance of operations done for charity. The surgeon is especially hardly dealt with in this respect, for not only does he give up his time and rest, to assuage the sorrows of the poor, but he also runs the risk of ruin, professional and financial, by suits for malpractice brought against him, when in the vast majority of cases, the whole blame for untoward results rests with the nursing the patient receives. Perhaps to avoid such untoward results he should be expected to supply a nurse, proper food and all the many surroundings, which go to make up a suitable environment for a patient. Thackary cannot be said to take an optimistic view of mankind, yet he gives us a type of a *Dr.* in *The Adventures of Philip*, who not unfrequently left with his poor patients half guineas as well as boluses; and we believe that the type has not disappeared. Why then should we be made to pay nearly twenty-five per cent. more for our instruments than we should have to do if this impost were not exacted. The question of Canada ever producing surgical instruments as one of the industries of the country, is surely out of count. No one could for a moment entertain the opinion that we can manufacture our own instruments as cheaply or as well as they can be manufactured at the great centres in Great Britain and the United States. So that the only other apparent reason why this vexatious duty should be imposed is the revenue returned by it. It seems to us that to argue the justness of such a tax, levied directly on medical men, is impossible. The reasons why this duty should be removed are numerous, and patent to any one with an ordinary intelligence. The young practitioner suffers from the want of a proper outfit, which can only be obtained by the favored few who have considerable capital at the commencement of their practice. The vast majority, therefore, of our young men are handicapped at the outset, by insufficient equipment for their professional duties. This, though a great evil, is perhaps not