

disease and crime; of ridding the dispensaries and hospitals, and private practitioners of a flood of venereal cases, and of ridding the streets, bar-rooms, courts, and public places of scenes of scandal and disorder. It is claimed by the medical and police authorities to have accomplished all this in a quiet way, without oppression, and, moreover, that its operation is satisfactory, even to the parties whose freedom is put under restraint. Every prostitute is registered, and visited and examined for signs of disease once a week by medical officers appointed by the Board of Health. For this examination, a fee of a dollar and a half is collected, and every keeper of a bawdy-house pays fourteen dollars a month. All cases of venereal disease are transferred immediately to a hospital outside the city, which has been built for the purpose, where they are treated without charge. There are about 700 prostitutes in St. Louis, and the number is not greater now than six years ago, notwithstanding the prodigious increase of the general population.

The revenue to the health authorities from the special taxes above named amounts to \$55,000 a year.

Venereal diseases have greatly diminished in number in St. Louis. This is true of private practice and of public institutions, and seems to be the universal judgment of the medical profession.

That there is violent opposition to this law on moral grounds is not to be overlooked. All the clergy oppose it, and even some physicians, while recognising its good effects, believe that the means employed are unjustifiable. Meanwhile, the people seem quite willing to have the experiment go on. It is certainly one of extreme interest, and it will be carefully watched by other communities, both in this and foreign countries.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*.

DR. NELATON'S ILLNESS.

This morning (August 20th) when I called to enquire, his condition was said to be exactly the same—namely, extreme prostration. Turning over the pages of the book which is kept for the inscription of visitors' names, and which is covered with signatures, I noticed the autographs of some of the most illustrious people here in politics, finance, science, arts, &c., and saw the names of Thiers, Barthelemy, St. Hilaine, Marshal Canrobert, Pereire, General Bourbaki, Comte Serurier (for the Society of Help to the Wounded), &c. A great many names are followed by the words "a grateful patient." The illness of the renowned surgeon is a subject of extreme interest and sympathy here, not only in professional circles, but with the public at large. The papers publish a daily bulletin of his health, and when fears of his death are mentioned the subject is spoken of as if it would be a real national loss. The name of Nélaton, especially since his voyage to Caprera, and extraction of Garibaldi's bullet, had become most popular, and his reputation was elevated and heightened by the fact of his being the only practising medical man made a Senator and Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour during the time of the Empire. He is considered here and abroad to be the highest representative of French surgical science, and there is no doubt that, as such, his death would be a matter of universal regret, and his loss very severely

felt. Nélaton inhabits a large and most elegant hotel, of which he is the proprietor, which he built a few years ago when he was in his zenith of professional success. It is situated at the corner of the Rue François Premier and the Cours la Reine, opposite the quay, and quite near the Champs Elysées, the most fashionable quarter of the town. Dr. Nélaton's private apartment is on the first floor. His wife and children are with him. Except his medical attendants and one or two friends, no one is admitted to see him, though visitors daily flock to his house.—*Paris Cor. of the Lancet*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"JUVENILE SUBSCRIBER."—Your queries may be answered as follows:—(a) Yes; (b) partly by mechanical force and partly by emotional influences; (c) on the cessation of the menses.

J. S., Ottawa.—Correspondents must observe the requirement to enclose their names, not necessarily for publication, but in confidence to the editor as a guarantee of good faith.

"MEDICUS." Hamilton.—The preparation you refer to was devised by Dr. Easton, Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Glasgow, and termed by him "Syrupus ferri, quiniæ et strychniæ phosphatum." Under a different name it has been sold as a proprietary medicine in the United States. Vide Aitken's Practice of Medicine, article Anæmia, for full details of its preparation.

"STUDENT."—Balfour's "First Book of Botany" is exceedingly cheap, very simple, and would be a useful introduction to a beginner preparatory to entering college. For an advanced student Gray's works are better adapted, and more interesting to a Canadian as dealing with the flora of North America.

A CASE OF UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MEDICAL TIMES.

Sir,—Your editorial remarks in your last week's impression on the criticism of physicians' prescriptions by druggists or their clerks, were timely and good. There is, however, a similar offence chargeable to some members of our own profession in exactly the same direction and which your remarks remind me of.

I refer to the almost daily overhauling by one medical man of another practitioner's prescription file at his apothecary's store, accompanied by open, unreserved remarks thereon, as well as pseudo-derogatory comments uttered in full hearing of patients awaiting the dispensing of prescriptions of their doctor undergoing comments and criticism at the tongue of this medical Paul Pry aforesaid!

Apart from exhibiting his bad taste and lack of professional business, it is very apt (by reason of self-exposed ignorance) to lower such a would-be critic, rather than the prescribing physician in the eyes of the apothecary. Such delinquencies do not escape observation, and always obtain their proper verdict. To such an offensive extent was this carried on by a party in Belleville, that my apothecary was obliged to find another and out-of-the-way depository for my prescriptions, safe alike from intrusion as well as ignorant and jealous criticism.

This is one of the many and varied "hydra-heads" of unethical behaviour that has been, and is yet, the great bane of the medical profession (as contrasted with our sister profession of the Law), to the great let and hindrance of its advancement, as well as to the prevention of harmony and good working in the attainment of noble objects; not to mention the low status and contempt that it entails upon the medical profession generally in the eyes of the public.

Unfortunately, we are not prepared with the means for remedying the more flagrant breaches of medical etiquette that the legal profession is, although let us hope the time is not far distant when we may be as fully able to deal with derelicts as they are at present; perhaps,

however, some good may be wrought by showing up offenders in print, and that the fear (or shame?) of figuring in our medical periodicals may compel a proper observance of those rules which an utter want of the instincts of a true gentleman, or the dictates of professional duty fail to comprehend or obtain compliance with.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

R. C.

Belleville, Sept. 1873.

MEDICAL NEWS.

Dr. Nélaton, the celebrated French surgeon, died in Paris on Saturday night, Sept. 20. He was born in June, 1817.

It is officially reported that there have been 2755 cases of cholera in Vienna since the outbreak of the disease, and of that number 1,110 were fatal.

Yellow fever has made its appearance in Mobile, Alabama. In Memphis there were 13 deaths last Saturday. Reports from Shreveport say that the yellow fever is not abated. Many prominent citizens have perished. The victims up to the present time amount to over 200. New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and all the important cities of the United States are aiding the sufferers, money alone being needed, as there are plenty of persons in the South who can be procured as nurses.

The consumption of horse flesh is rapidly increasing in France. During the first half of the year 1867, 893 horses or mules were slain for consumption and afforded 320,000 lb. of meat; during the corresponding period of the present year, 5186 animals have been slaughtered, affording about 1,900,000 lb. of meat for public consumption. This is an enormous increase, and the utilization of horses unfit for work, but thoroughly healthy, and not worth more than about twenty dollars, will, it is reckoned, increase the public wealth by 400,000,000 of francs.

European papers state that in Munich, where several cases of cholera have occurred, the rooks and crows which before flew about the steeples and through the trees of the public promenades have all emigrated. The same thing happened during the cholera seasons of 1836 and 1854. According to Sir Samuel W. Baker ("Eight Years' Wanderings in Ceylon," chap. viii.) the same phenomenon occurred at Mauritius, where the martins, which exist in immense numbers the year round, wholly disappeared during the prevalence of the cholera.—[Philadelphia Medical Times.

THE CHOLERA IN EUROPE.

The report from Berlin on Sept. 2 is, that since the outbreak of the disease there had been 292 cases, of which 185 had died, and only 15 had recovered, 92 remaining under treatment. During the day, from the 1st to the 2nd, 19 cases and 9 deaths were reported. In Prussia the returns up to August 30 give 4,611 cases, and 2,474 deaths. In Dresden, up to August 17, there were 125 cases and 76 deaths. In Munich the number of cases was increasing on August 30. On the previous day there had been 38 cases and 14 deaths. The total number of cases from the commencement was 618, and of deaths 260. In Koenigsberg, during the week from August 24 to 30, 381 cases and 174 deaths were reported. In Wartenburg, a town of 4,000 inhabitants, there had been daily about 20 cases and 15 deaths for some weeks. In some statistical returns published on Aug. 30, the number of cases that had occurred in the German Empire is stated to be 4,611, and that of deaths 2,474. In Vienna, during the week ending August 29, there were 156 deaths. Cholera is reported to have appeared in St. Petersburg. The disease continues to make victims at Havre, principally among persons of intemperate habits, living in unhealthy dwellings. Two fatal cases are reported to have occurred in Caen; and at Breteville, a small commune a few leagues distant, there have been 5 or 6 deaths. In Rouen, from Aug. 27 to 30 inclusive, there were 38 deaths; on the last-named day, 42 cases remained under treatment. There have been numerous cases in the neighbourhood; and at Bolbec, on Sept. 1, there had been 20 deaths.