

much the electric current in the foot-path passes through the whole body, while, in the body-bath it leaves the body at or near the surface of the water, passing, consequently, only through the arms and neck. To perform the above experiment, a battery will be required equal in power to ten of Groves' cups.

BELLADONNA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical World.

MR. EDITOR,—Dear Sir: Allow me to ask, "Will belladonna prevent scarlet fever?" The opinion of medical men are sometimes so various, and physicians of one school are so blind and deaf to the discoveries and improvements of another school, that an important truth is often in danger of oblivion from no other reason. It seems to be so with belladonna.

Little less than a century ago, the immortal Hahnemann showed to the world the prophylactic virtues of this plant against the contagion of scarlet fever.

From that time to this his disciples have made no secret of it, but have habitually used it, thus confirming his opinions by their own experience. The observations of Hahnemann have been verified in the country by physicians of the homeopathic school generally. And the prevalence of scarlet fever at the present time, begins to force upon the public mind the value of belladonna as a real prophylactic to scarlatina.

For the last ten years I have made use of this medicine, in many cases, as a curative, and in all cases (where the occasion required) as a preventive; and I can now say, *with entire truth*, that I have never known an instance of the appearance of scarlet fever, among those to whom I had administered belladonna as a prophylactic, during exposure to the disease.

Very truly yours,

DAVID THAYER.

Boston, Dec. 15th, 1856.

MEDICINE TAKING.

It is generally admitted that large doses of medicine is productive of serious injury to the patient. Of course the quantity must bear some kind of relation to the evil it is intended to remove; the age, sex, disease for which it is prescribed, and various other circumstances which are grouped together in the physician's mind. But the quantity given by some practitioners forty or fifty years ago, compared with the elegant prescriptions of these refined days of medical inquiry, are quite amazing.

There is a danger of erring on the other extreme, in not giving enough by the old school of allopathists, since the homeopathic system has become so generally popular.