

loss of solvent power in taking up the active principle of the rennet.

To the physiologist, it is unnecessary to say, that this remedy should be given after or during, not before, meals. A single dose, given daily after dinner, I have found quite sufficient in the general run of cases requiring it. How this small quantity can act so speedily and effectively it is, perhaps, not easy to explain, when we consider the large supply of the gastric secretion necessary for the thorough digestion of an ordinary meal. The action is, probably due to those indirect chemical changes, called catalytic transformations, which some organic substances, by their mere presence and contact, induce in each other and in other proximate principles; and thus, perhaps, the conversion of a small portion of food into healthy albuminose by this small quantity of sound gastric juice, may induce the same healthy action throughout the stomach contents during the entire process of stomach digestion. It is at least equally difficult to explain the action and rapid extension of ferments generally, in their appropriate solutions.

I have often been forcibly struck by the magical effect of this small dose in removing offensive odor from the breath of young persons,—a distressing symptom, sometimes aggravated rather than relieved by purgative medicine; and I may also mention, that in one of these cases cod-liver oil was easily tolerated afterwards, though never before. It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that the oil is at all acted on by the gastric fluid. The oil globules of coagulated milk are seen, under the microscope, unchanged, though imbedded in the solidified caseine; and the digestion of oil, taking place only after passing the orifices of the pancreatic and biliary ducts, is entirely intestinal; but intestinal digestion itself must surely be influenced essentially by the healthy preparatory action of the stomach secretion on the albuminous compounds presented to it, and thus the digestion of oils and fatty matters, though not even commenced in the stomach, may be facilitated by their being mingled with the products of healthy gastric action, when submitted to the succeeding operations of the pancreas and liver. *Medical Times. From Braithwaite.*

To Correspondents.

Distilled Waters.—Peppermint and other waters, although retaining this name, are rarely distilled. They are made up extemporaneously by rubbing one drop of the essential oil with a few grains of carbonate of magnesia, stirring in gradually an ounce of water, and filtering. In prescriptions containing any other powder, the oil is triturated with it, and the mixture made up without the necessity of previous filtration.

To purify Lard.—To every eight pounds of lard, add an ounce of powdered alum, and a table-spoonful of common salt. Melt it in a water bath, stirring it frequently, until of the heat of the boiling water, when it must be skimmed and allowed to cool. Next, turn it out of the vessel, scrape off the sediment, and wash, and work thoroughly in a running stream of water.

S.—The Montreal General Hospital contains at present eighty-two occupied beds.

Fluid Magnesia.—Add three pounds of carbonate of magnesia to ten gallons of water, before putting it into a soda cylinder, and pump in the usual quantity of gas employed in making soda water, and you will have ten gallons of the finest saturated fluid magnesia, the directions for which will be the same as those for Murray's.

Medical Works published in Great Britain from the 15th October, to the 15th November, 1863, with their sizes, numbers of pages, publishers' names, and prices in sterling.

Beale (Lionel S.)—Urine, Urinary Deposits, and Calculi, and on the Treatment of Urinary Diseases. 2nd edit. post 8vo. pp. 464, 2s. 6d. (Churchill.)

Bird (S. Dougan)—On Australasian Climates, and their Influence in the Prevention and Arrest of Pulmonary Consumption. 8vo. pp. 174, 7s. 6d. (Longman.)

Gardner (W. T.)—Outline Figures for Recording Physical Diagnosis; for the use of Students and Medical Practitioners. 8vo. 1s. 6d. (Simpkin.)

Hewitt (Graily)—The Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of Women, including the Diagnosis of Pregnancy; founded on a Course of Lectures delivered at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School 8vo., pp. 654, 16s. (Longman.)

Hingston (James Anselm)—Topics of the Day, Medical, Social, and Scientific. Post 8vo. pp. 410, 7s. 6d. (Churchill.)

Hilton (John)—On the Influence of Mechanical and Physiological Rest in the Treatment of Accidents and Surgical Diseases, and the Diagnostic Value of Pain: a Course of Lectures delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons in England in 1860, 1861 and 1862. 8vo., pp. 500, 16s. (Bell.)

Holt (Bernard)—On the Immediate Treatment of Stricture of the Urethra by the employment of the "Stricture Dilator." 2nd edit. 8vo., pp. 116, 3s. (Churchill.)

Laycock (Thomas)—The Principles and Methods of Medical Observation and Research, for the use of Advanced Students and Junior Practitioners. 2nd edit. with copious Indexes of Diseases. Post 8vo., pp. 424, 8s. (Simpkin.)

Savory (W. K.) On Life and Death: Four Lectures delivered at the Royal Institution of Great Britain. Post 8vo., pp. 208, 6s. (Smith & E.) A Physiological and medical work.

Winslow (Forbes)—Obscure Diseases of the Brain and Mind. 3rd edit., revised. Post 8vo., pp. 640, 16s. 6d. (Hardwicke.)

Periodicals received since 15th November.

Madras Quarterly Journal, April. London Medical Times to Nov. 21. Am. Medical Times to Dec. 12. Boston Med. and Surg. Journal to Dec. 10. Philadelphia Med. and Surg. Reporter to Nov. 25. Philadelphia Dental Cosmos, Dec. Buffalo Med. and Surg. Journal, Nov. Chicago Medical Journal, Nov. Phil. Med. News and Library, Dec. London Chemist and Druggist, Nov. Am. Druggists' Circular, Dec. London Publishers' Circular to Nov. 15.

Books and Pamphlets received during the Month.

The Functions and Disorders of the Reproductive Organs. By W. Acton, M.R.C.S. 3rd edition, 8vo., pp. 218. Churchill & Sons, 1862. From the publishers.

The Diseases, Injuries, and Malformations of the Rectum and Anus, with remarks on Habitual Constipation. By J. Ashton, F.R.M.C.S. 4th edition, 8vo., pp. 411. Churchill & Sons, 1863. From the publishers.

Asthma, its Pathology and Treatment. By H. H. Salt, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P. Physician to Charing Cross Hospital, and Lecturer on Physiology and Pathology at its Medical School. 8vo., pp. 372. Churchill & Sons, 1860. From the author.

A Treatise on the Pathology of the Urine, including a complete guide to its Analysis. By J. L. W. Thomson, M.D. 8vo., pp. 429. Churchill & Sons. From the publishers.

Manual of Ophthalmoscopic Surgery. By Jabez Hogg, senior Asst. Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. 3rd edition, 8vo., pp. 298. Churchill & Sons, 1863. From the publishers.

Seventh Annual Report of the United Lunatic Asylum of Nottingham.

Some valuable pamphlets from Dr. T. Skinner of Liverpool, on Chloroform in Midwifery; on Fistula and its local therapeutic Treatment; and on the Granulation of Mucines.

Subscriptions paid since 15th November.

Dr. W. H. Brouse, Dr. Easton, and Dr. W. J. Jones, all Prescott; Dr. H. A. Gordon, and Messrs. A. Johnston & Co. of Brockville; Dr. J. A. Macdonald and Dr. Thomas Kingston; Dr. G. J. Potts, Omemee; Thos. Carr, St. Catharines; Dr. A. G. Walter, Pittsburgh, Penn.; Dr. B. P. Spencer, Watertown, N. Y.; Dr. Angus McDonald, Dr. Gauthier, Dr. Dagenais, and A. G. Davidson, Esq., all Montreal; Dr. C. H. Boynton, Wells River, Vt.; Dr. Becker, Belmore.

DEATH.

In this city, on the 4th inst., Alexander William Arth Delisle, Esq., M.D., aged 33 years and six months.

Dr. Delisle was one of the few Canadians who did serve in the Crimean war, as Assistant Surgeon in Her Majesty's forces.

The Canada Lancet is published monthly at the rate of one dollar, (or four shillings sterling) per annum. Remittances may be made to W. E. Bowman, M.D., Editor & Proprietor, or to Mr. John Lovell.