

side-by-side contrast of truth and falsity, have had such marked results that during the last nine years not a single homoeopathist or eclectic has passed as such in the province, so that the chief of the homoeopathic division has recently withdrawn from the council and is seeking the repeal of law under which it was created."

It is only necessary to add that our confrere has inadvertently fallen into a mistake in stating the term of operation of the Act at nine years, instead of a little more than four years, which is the case. As a matter of fact, the Ontario Medical Act received the Lieutenant-Governor's assent on the 23rd of January, 1869, and went into practical operation the summer following.

## ANATOMY.

### ON THE PRESERVATION OF ANATOMICAL SPECIMENS AND CADAVERS.

Translated from *LE BORDEAUX MEDICAL* by JAMES NEISH, M.D., Professor of Anatomy, Kingston.

Undenially one of the most curious things exhibited at the Vienna Exhibition is the exposition of anatomical preparations by Dr. Marini, of Naples. During the past few years he has been enabled to preserve in an extraordinary manner hands, legs, and other parts of the human body.

He employs several methods. One process is that of mummification, imitating the Egyptian method, and which perhaps attains more or less complete results as to hardness and preservation. In itself this process is not astonishing, but that which is most incomprehensible is his system which maintains the entire freshness of a region of the human body and even of a whole body.

Thus a foot, which on a visit to Paris M. Marini prepared at the Faculty of Medicine, and whereon is attixed the signature and seal of M. Sappey, Professor of Anatomy, has been preserved without alteration since the 14th of November, 1864. On making an incision into this foot, the subjacent parts are found to be in such a state of freshness that one might say the cadaver was only a few hours old. The fatty tissue has its ordinary appearance, and the tendons have their brilliant pearly lustre. These tissues at the same time retain all their transparency, and in looking at them in the shade with a light in front, the different layers can be very plainly distinguished and also the outlines of the bone.

Another method is that which M. Marini calls the state of leathery toughness (*l'état coriace*)—a species of tanning. By this method the tissues are hardened and have not the least transparency, but after being placed in water they recover a state of freshness. We saw a portion of one of these preparations which the jury commission had detached and labelled, and which in three days afterwards, having been subjected to the action of a preparation, had regained its freshness and looked like a piece from a recent body. This piece was detached from a specimen prepared in 1863.

Our readers may perhaps call to mind the preparations of this nature which were exhibited in 1867 at the Paris Exposition by M. Brunetti, and which were awarded a grand prize. These preparations were made with tannic acid, and

the tissues preserved very well their forms, but remained permanently in their leathery state.

Dr. Marini's processes, therefore, denote a great progressive step. At present they remain secret, but like M. Brunetti, M. Marini has given, it is believed, the formula of his preparations to the commission, and should they be not adjudged a prize he will retain his secret.

These modes of preparation are not only a matter of curiosity, but it is certain that practically they could be turned to profitable account. Dr. Marini declares that he has treated by the same method wounds of a bad nature, and has thereby sensibly modified them. Time and experience would give value to these processes, supposing M. Marini consents to a course which is the only honest and scientific one, and gives to the profession his formulae and method of operation.

That which appears certain is that in these preparations there enters no substance of a noxious nature, for M. Marini has also prepared pieces of meat which are preserved in vessels, and he asserts that by putting these pieces of meat in water for several hours they are susceptible of being eaten without danger. To mislead those persons who would fain discover the substances which he employs, he adds to these preparations of fresh meat either a drop of carbolic acid, or a little Cologne water, or peppermint, etc.

Finally, there is another system of preparation which is only of service in embalming, and which is termed petrification. He has turned to account the property of electricity in transporting from molecule to molecule certain salts at one of the poles and in eliminating them at the other. He has thus been able to penetrate the tissues with insoluble salts, which make their way to the uttermost parts of the membranes and the cells, at the same time preserving the general form.

The processes which we have previously cited may be equally employed in embalming; and in this way the widow of Thalberg, the celebrated pianist, desired to embalm her husband, and whom she preserves in her drawing-room in the fresh state.

Recently, M. Marini has been charged with embalming the body of M. Daffito, formerly prefect of Naples. He employed in this case the process by petrification, in which the action of electricity is resorted to. This process requires a certain length of time, and in order not to be obliged to go every day to the cemetery, M. Marini has applied a little electrical bell, which strikes as long as the electric current passes, and he has requested the porter in charge to send for him only when the bell ceases striking. This circumstance has taken hold of the popular imagination, and to-day it is declared in Naples that it is the devil in person who is sounding into the ears of the old prefect the bell of extreme unction, for M. Daffito died without confessing, and was buried according to the civil law.

In all the cases, we believe it would be a real service which M. Marini would render to science were he to publish his modes of operation. He would be culpable if he did not, and we hope he

will not allow himself to be carried away by an idea of pecuniary advantages.

## THE BRUNETTI PROCESS.

To the above translation we append a résumé of the Brunetti process, incidentally referred to in the course of the article. It is given on the authority of Ed. J. Hallock, in the *Journal of Applied Chemistry*.—

The "Brunetti process" for the preservation of the dead consists of several processes. 1. The circulatory system is cleansed by washing with cold water till it issues quite clear from the body. This may occupy from two to five hours.

2. Alcohol is injected, so as to abstract as much water as possible. This occupies about a quarter of an hour.

3. Ether is then injected, to abstract the fatty matters. This occupies from two to ten hours.

4. A strong solution of tannin is then injected. This occupies for imbibition two to ten hours.

5. The body is then dried in a current of warm air passed over heated chloride of calcium. This may occupy two to five hours. The body is thus preserved, and resists decay.

## SURGERY.

### CYST OF THE LABIUM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MEDICAL TIMES.

Sir,—Having just perused your number for this week, I find therein an interesting case of 'Cyst of the Labium,' quoted from the *American Practitioner*, and I admit I was surprised to find such tumours were so rare as to be worthy of so special a notice. I therefore beg to forward to you the following notes of a case which I met a few years ago. Should you deem it worth insertion in your journal, it is at your service.

In the summer of 1868, a young and healthy married lady, Mrs. A.—, came from the country to consult me as to a tumour of the right labium which she had been informed was a cancer. As she had a husband and one child to live for, and was about three months advanced in pregnancy, she was most anxious as to her fate, and trembled at the idea of my coinciding with her attendant in opinion.

Having obtained the history of her case, and examined the tumour, I had no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that it was a simple cyst, about the size of a pigeon's egg; and after some difficulty I overcame her fears, and got her to allow me to snip off with scissors a part of the external wall, thereby giving exit to about a teaspoonful of colourless albuminoid fluid,—much to her relief of mind. I then placed a very small piece of caustic potash in the cavity, thereby destroying the rest of the sac. The process of consolidation went on most satisfactorily, and in a short time she returned to her home, and has since continued in excellent health.

The case at the time seemed of little moment, but the article you have quoted forces me to conclude I had a white elephant and did not know it. Yours truly,

J. LIZARS LIZARS, M.R.C.S., Ed & Eng.  
Toronto, October 10, 1873.