

Is it not, indeed, without meaning that books addressed only to technically educated men—books unintelligible, and, if unintelligible, therefore offensive to the eyes of ordinary people—should be announced at the breakfast-table that the young lady who looks for the last new novel, or the latest announcements in music and literature, must perforce read of 'The Disease of the Genital Organs,' 'The Pathology of the Testicle,' 'The Painless Cure of Gonorrhœa,' 'The Means of Fecundation,' and the Cure of Sterility'? There are certain medical authors who avowedly address books for good and useful reasons to non-medical authors; those will, of course, take their place, as before, among avowedly popular books. We are not speaking of these, but of purely medical works for medical readers. We say that there is no reason in the world why these should be advertised in the daily papers. — *Student's Journal & Hospital Gazette*.

AN ANTIDOTE TO CHLOROFORM.—Dr. Schuller has discovered that the nitrite of amyl quickly removes the effects of chloroform on the vessels of the pia mater, and that even in cases of advanced narcotism from the latter drug it rapidly relieves the dyspnoea and laboured respiration, restoring the strength of the pulse, and the reflex excitability. This discovery may prove of much practical value where chloroform continues to be the favourite anæsthetic. — *New York Med. Jour.*, Feb. 1875.

TREATMENT OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM BY THE PACKING PROCESS.—Dr. Donse, of London, has recently been advocating the above method. He says the first thing to do in the treatment of rheumatic fever is to eliminate the acid products of the diseased state; and the next, to relieve pain. To bring this about he has been in the habit of packing most of his cases in a wet blanket, and then rolling them up in dry blankets, so as to produce profuse sweating, and also increase the temperature. Finding that this method gave good results, he adopted a systematic mode of procedure, which he thus describes: The bed is covered with India-rubber sheeting; over this is laid a blanket which has been wrung out of hot water. The patient is then enveloped in the blanket, and covered with six folds of dry blanketing. By this the temperature is raised, and profuse sweating results; the former, if need be, is assisted by the administration of brandy in half-ounce or ounce doses every hour, and the latter by freely drinking warm milk and water. If the temperature exceed 102° F., the stimulant is unnecessary. The treatment is continued for three days. He finds that after the third pack the pain completely subsides and the sour taste usually disappears. He gives the detailed histories of six cases, taken from some thirty which have been submitted to the packing process

and of which only one had failed of success. The author is of the opinion that the constitution or age of the patient does not so much influence the duration of the disease as the season of the year and state of the atmosphere, and he has repeatedly observed that if a patient with acute rheumatism in one ward had a relapse, it invariably followed that patients in other wards were similarly influenced. To carry out the treatment without failure, the prescribed regulations must be strictly adhered to. — *British Medical Journal*, January 23, 1875. — *Med. Review N. Y.*

COUGH AND SWEATING IN PHTHISIS.—Dr. Little, of Dublin, recommends the following combination for the relief of the distressing cough of phthisis, and for diminishing the sweating:—

Acetate of Morphia, 2 grains.
Liquor of Atropia, 6 minims.
Dilute Hydrocyanic Acid, 36 minims.
Syrup of Virginia Prune to an ounce and a-half.

A measured drachm to be taken, unmixed with water, on going to bed, and once again during the night if necessary. — *Dublin Journal of Medical Science*, January, 1875.

DIPHTHERITIC SORE THROAT.—An easy and successful method of treating it, by Dr. Lolli.—The following method of treatment has given similar results for many years, and the conclusions drawn by the author are as follows;—1. Never cauterize the throat or abstract blood; abstain from purgatives and emetics, unless in very exceptional cases. —2. Nourish the patient according to his appetite, but let the food be light and easily assimilated. —3. Keep up the functions of the skin from the very commencement of the disease till the local or still better, the general symptoms allow you to judge that the morbid process is extinct. (Great stress is laid on this point.) —4. For local application, as well as for internal use, the author strongly recommends the following "antidiphtheritic mixture":—Boiling water, ℥vi.-xx.; liquid squinchloride of iron, min. xx.-3i.; carbolic acid, g. iij.-xx.; red honey, ℥vi. This can be used internally and as a gargle every two hours; one or two spoonfuls being a dose. The result of this treatment in 60 cases has been—a mortality less than 2 per cent.; medium duration of the attack, 8 to 10 days; extension of disease to air passages rare and slight; sequelæ, none or very rare. — *Rivista Falsciense*, Dec., 1874. (*Glasgow Medical Journal*.)

Dr. Robert Barnes is said to have relinquished the appointment of Obstetric Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, in order to fill a similar position in St. George's Hospital. His successor is Dr. Gervis.