

long contact, that a crystal of sulphate of iron immersed in it is turned of a pink color just as quickly as if charcoal had not been used. This refusal of charcoal to absorb nitric acid from its solution in concentrated sulphuric acid, would seem to indicate that this acid is retained by the charcoal in the first instance in the form of a hydrate, the dilute condition of the sulphuric acid employed preventing its decomposition."

### Cadgers' Ciphers.

The chalk-marks made on fences, doorsteps, and railings are not always made by mischievous boys; they are often the ciphers or hieroglyphics of beggars. In New York, for example, two straight lines forming an angle, **L**, indicate that the occupants of the house are generous, and victuals can be easily obtained. An arrow warns the "cadgers," as they call themselves, that they are liable to be put under arrest if they call; and an **X** signifies that there is no use in calling, because they can get nothing. There is a perfect knowledge of these ciphers on the part of beggars. We suggest that the inhabitants should mark their houses with one of the two latter signs, and thus keep the "cadgers" away.—*American Artizun.*

### Cancers.

It is, we believe, the received opinion, indeed the foregone conclusion of the medical faculty that a cancer is incurable, except by excision. This remedy is always painful and uncertain, and not unfrequently the operation itself is the immediate cause of death. Even in cases in which the wound readily heals, and the cancer does not reappear, it often happens that the patient never recovers from the shock upon the system produced by the cruel operation, but after lingering for a few weeks or months, sinks and dies.

Now it is well known that a wide spread popular opinion prevails that this painful and dangerous disease is curable by some external application. Ignorant pretenders, although unfitted, by a total want of education and practical knowledge, to meddle with so delicate a subject as the human organism take advantage of this state of things, and not unfrequently reap an excellent harvest from it. Nor can it, we think, be questioned, that these people have the knowledge of some valuable remedy, which in every favourable case, succeeds in perfectly removing the evil, with very little inconvenience or suffering to the patient. Some such instances have come within our own knowledge. Well defined cancers, so pronounced by competent medical authority, have been perfectly cured by plasters prepared by an old woman or an ignorant man. Unfortunately, however, these persons being totally ignorant of pathology and the kindred sciences apply their remedy without regard to any other symptoms which may be present in their patient, and hence, from the presence of some other disease, or on account of some special condition of the nervous system, the application sometimes proves fatal and the patient dies in their hands.

In view of these facts, the question has often presented itself to us with great force—Why do not

learned physicians and surgeons inform themselves of these facts, and take this important branch of practice into their own hands where it justly belongs, and so deliver this class of their suffering fellow creatures, who entirely deserve their sympathy, from the hands of ignorant Empirics and pretenders? Perhaps they think it unbecoming the dignity of their learned profession, to seek for even valuable knowledge at such vulgar sources, and we admit without question, that it would be mortifying humiliation for a learned member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons to go to such an one as Dr. Lanktree and give him a hundred dollars for his secret. We can save him that mortification by presenting the recipe from a source with the respectability of which he will be satisfied; Dr. Fell, of London, who is said to be the discoverer, and we consider it equally creditable to him, whether he discovered the remedy himself or whether he found it in the hands of some Lanktree or Deienbaugh, and rescued it to its just and proper position. We have no doubt but it is substantially the same preparation which has been frequently used in Canada by the parties above alluded to and by them kept as a valuable secret.

Though we give the recipe we shall accompany it with the advice that none of our unlearned readers should venture to apply it, but if unfortunately suffering from cancer take it to his family physician and request him to make the application, provided he finds the condition of the bodily health such as to render it safe to do it.

### How to Cure Cancers.

Not long since an article appeared in the *Milwaukee Free Democrat*, which the *Providence Post* thinks of sufficient importance to receive general notice. The statement of the *Democrat* is, that some eight months ago Mr. T. B. Mason, who keeps a music store on Wisconsin street, ascertained that he had a cancer on his face the size of a pea. It was cut out by Dr. Walcott, and the wound partially healed. Subsequently it grew again, and while he was at Cincinnati on business, it attained the size of a hickory nut. He has remained there since Christmas, under treatment, and is now perfectly cured. The process is this; a piece of sticking plaster is put over the cancer, having a hole in the centre a little larger than the cancer, so that the cancer and a circular rim of healthy skin next to it was exposed. Then a plaster made of chloride of zinc, blood root, [*Sanguinaria Canadensis*] and wheat flower, was spread on a piece of muslin the size of this circular opening, and applied to the cancer for twenty-four hours. On removing it the cancer will be found to be burnt into an appearance of the color and hardness of an old shoe, and the circular rim outside of it will appear white and parboiled, as if scalded by hot steam. The wound is now dressed, and the outside rim soon separates and the cancer comes out in a hard lump, and the place heals up. The plaster kills the cancer so that it sloughs out like dead flesh and never grows again. The remedy was discovered by Dr. Fell, of London, and has been used by him for six or eight years with unflinching success, and not a case has been known of the re-appearance of the cancer when this remedy has been applied.

—*Baptist Freeman.*