

removes it: The solution has also been used for very disgusting privies, &c., effluvia from which it quickly neutralizes.

Mr. Henderson, the surgeon to the dock-yard at Portsmouth, employed the fluid in a severe case of open cancer, the factor from which was intolerable to the patient and attendants: this it destroyed so long as the dressings were kept moist therewith. Professor Quain has used it, he says, in the treatment of sloughing tumours with beneficial result, and he has no doubt it will supplant the chloride of lime and soda altogether in the removal of fetid odour. Mr. Gibson, surgeon of the "Euridice," employed it in a case of angry ulcer, in the proportion of one part to four of water. An eschar was the result, the separation of which left the ulcer in a healthy condition.

Several naval and other medical men have employed it as a disinfectant in hospitals, and on board ship, the general result being a marked diminution in the rate of mortality. Dr. Lindsay, Dr. Cronin, and Dr. Connor, of Cork, all bear testimony to its beneficial effects. Mr. Verling, surgeon of the "Vengeance," thus speaks:—

"Having used the chloride of zinc rather extensively on board Her Majesty's ship 'Vengeance,' whilst employed in the conveyance of troops, I think proper to report to you the result thereof. We carried the first battalion of the forty-second regiment, consisting of about 700 men, women and children, from Malta to Bermuda. Measles had prevailed epidemically in the regiment previously to their embarkation, but we received none on board labouring under the disease yet after being ten days at sea, several cases occurred simultaneously among the soldiers, and on the 1st of April, having been then a month at sea, the disease appeared among our own people, ten cases occurring on that day, and from that day to the fifteenth of the month, when we arrived at Bermuda, fresh cases were almost of daily occurrence, either among our own people or the troops. On getting rid of the troops, which we did at Bermuda, my attention was of course specially directed to every means whereby the contagion could be destroyed. Cleanliness and ventilation were duly attended to, and every part of the ship where the sick had been, after being cleaned and aired, was sponged well over with the solution of chloride of zinc several times. Than the result nothing can be better; the disease totally ceased, no fresh case occurring after. On our passage from Halifax, with the 60th regiment on board, the weather was so bad, and the ship working so much, that it was quite impossible to open any of the lower-deck ports, on which deck the whole of the people lived, troops as well as our own people, for eight days; the air throughout the deck was exceedingly vitiated with every mixture of noxious smell, but the free use of the chloride of zinc tended, in a most surprising manner, to do away with the bad smell; so much so, that the surgeon of the regiment came to me to get some to use in the part of the ship where the ladies of the officers were. The effect of the chloride of zinc is most obvious in correcting all bad and offensive effluvia; and from the sudden and surprising manner in which the measles disappeared after its use, is not, I think, too much to say, that it must have been instrumental in decomposing the miasma, or state of the atmosphere in the ship, which tended to the generation of the disease."

From all these statements, then, it is clear that the solution of the chloride of zinc is a powerful agent in neutralizing noxious gases, and in arresting the progress of decomposition. Sir W. Burnett has therefore rendered, by its discovery, a great benefit to suffering humanity. On board ship, its influence in removing the offensive odours from bilge-water can hardly be too highly estimated, while its action in sweetening the wards of hospitals, and destroying noxious and infectious effluvia, seems to be equally evident.—*London Lancet.*

Homœopathy.—The following case of administering powerful drugs in large doses under the guise of homœopathy, is noticed in the *Medical Gazette* as having recently occurred in London:—

"A lady who had been attended by a highly respectable general practitioner, recently consulted a homœopathic physician, who has acquired some celebrity in the fashionable quarter of the metropolis, for his skill in treating and curing diseases by infinite small doses. She received from him four small white powders, with explicit directions, (now lying before us,) one to be taken

every other night,—each powder being numbered, and the night on which it was to be taken, as well as the mode of taking it, being particularly specified,—"all dry on the tongue." No. 1 was swallowed according to order, and the patient was soon afterwards seized with great sleepiness, stupor, and other alarming symptoms indicative of the action of a powerful narcotic. These effects were followed by diarrhœa. The patient was alarmed, and instead of looking upon the result as an indication of the beneficial working of homœopathic powders, or as a means of curing her of any latent scepticism respecting the efficacy of infinite small doses, she was prudent enough to return to her old medical friend, to whom she handed the remaining powders with the directions. This gentleman, suspecting that they contained some active narcotic, caused them to be submitted to a chemical analysis. We have now the report of this analysis before us, and of it we shall make the following abridgement. The powders were numbered 2, 3, and 4. They were similar in appearance, except that No. 3 was somewhat whiter than the other two: there was nothing to indicate that they were of different composition; and as they were to be taken the same way on alternate nights, this could not possibly be suspected.

"Although there was no great dissimilarity in bulk, the powders were very unequal in weight. No. 2 weighed 3.4 grains; No. 3, 1.5 grains; No. 4, 2 grains. No. 2 was found, upon analysis, to consist entirely of calomel and morphia, the morphia forming no less than one grain. No. 3 contained no morphia or calomel, nor any mineral or other substance, but merely sugar of milk. No. 4 was composed of calomel and morphia, the morphia amounting to one half grain."—*Proc. Med. and Surg. Journal.*

Homœopathy—Accidental Death.—A coroner's inquest was held in Stockport on the 18th of July inst., on the body of Martin Van Sicker, who came to his death on Friday last, under the following circumstances: He called upon Dr. John H. Philip, a Homœopathic physician, for some pills for a pain in the side, &c. Dr. Philip gave him two vials of pills, one containing 24, the other 32 pills, with written directions to take one three times a day; and if it produced any burning pain, then to take but half of one at a time. It seems, from the testimony on the inquest, that Van Sicker's illness was feigned, and that there was an understanding between him and Dr. Schermerhorn, of Stockport, that he should get the pills, and take them, for the purpose of ridiculing Dr. Philip and his medicine. Dr. Schermerhorn assured Van Sicker that he need not be afraid to take the whole lot, as they would hurt no one. Accordingly, Van Sicker took the whole of the pills, under the advice of Dr. S., and the result was his death about one o'clock the next morning. Dr. Philip testified that he was called on the night of the 16th, by Dr. Schermerhorn, who wished him immediately to go and see deceased. Dr. P. told him it was useless, if he had taken the whole of the medicine he sent at once, as it would produce death. According to the testimony of Dr. Witbeck, of Hudson, the deceased came to his death by taking an over-dose of strychnine and arsenic pills. Accordingly, the jury found that he came to his death by taking the medicine contrary to the direction of Dr. Philip.—*N. Y. Annalist, from Kinderhook Sentinel.*

Medical Reform in France.—A most important question, which has for some months past excited a large share of public attention, is the *Medical Reform Bill*, the discussion of which commenced in the Chamber of Peers on the 5th of June. Since any measure calculated to affect the interests of the Medical profession in France cannot but be interesting to the profession in the United States, I have thought a brief analysis of the more prominent features of the bill, together with some notice of the existing laws in relation to the practice and teaching of medicine in France, might justly be considered as coming within the promise of your correspondent.

Notwithstanding that France may be said to have taken the lead in medical reform for the last ten years, at least, it was not until the *Congrès Médical*, formed of delegates from among the medical practitioners of all parts of the kingdom, which assembled in Paris last November, the number of about five thousand, that the numerous abuses were made known to the government, and assurance given by the Minister of Public Instruction that he