

ART. LIX.—*Frost-bite and its Treatment.* By WILLIAM BERLIN, M.D.,
&c. &c. &c.

As we are in the season to meet with frozen limbs, especially frost-bitten fingers and toes, it may be well to make known a method of treatment which I adopted many years ago, and which I have found to be very successful. It is the usual practice, so soon as it is discovered that any portion of the body has been frozen, to apply cold water or soft snow to the same, and continue the application until the circulation is restored, or until the hope of restoring vitality is gone. If only a small piece of skin be frozen, snow rubbing will generally succeed; but if both skin and deeper parts are frozen, snow rubbing will seldom restore vitality: indeed the long continued application of cold water or snow is generally injurious. I have no doubt that many fingers and toes are thus lost which might have been saved by better treatment.

After applying cold water or snow of a proper temperature for a few minutes to extract the frost as speedily as possible, my plan is to immerse the frozen part in warm water containing a sufficient quantity of ground pepper or mustard: as one or the other of these articles is to be found in almost every house, it is consequently always available. If portions of the face or ears are affected, pieces of flannel coming out of the hot liquid are to be applied, and frequently repeated till circulation is restored. In a few minutes a tingling sensation will be felt; and, in a short time, vitality will be fully restored, unless the frost has penetrated too deeply. If the whole thickness of a member be frozen, including the principal blood vessels and bone, no treatment can restore vitality; loss of substance and disfigurement will be the inevitable consequence; but, even in these cases, my treatment is of service by extending the living parts as far as possible, and thus diminishing the extent of the mischief.

It is probable that some medical men employ means similar to mine; but there are many who confine their operations to the application of cold water or snow, with sometimes the use internally of anodynes or stimulants, and if these means fail, they regard the restoration of vitality as hopeless. To such I would earnestly recommend a trial of my plan; and, if proper cases be selected, I have no doubt that the result will prove satisfactory.

L'Assomption, 12th Dec., 1862.

ART. LX.—*On Chlorodyne.* By W. E. BOWMAN, M.D., &c. &c. &c.

Having employed this agent for upwards of two years, and, being much pleased with its effects as an anodyne and antispasmodic, I subjoin my mode of preparing the perchloric acid, and mixing the remedy, that those who do not now prescribe it from a determination not to countenance a patent medicine, or who are debarred from its use by the high price of the imported article, may be induced like myself to manufacture and give it a fair trial.

PERCHLORIC ACID.

Pour four ounces by weight of commercial sulphuric acid into an ordinary quart bowl, and add gradually one ounce of finely sifted Chlorate of Potash.