

with its morphia, codeia, narcotine, &c. : nux vomica, with its strychnia and brucia, &c., &c. I think any chemist will consider the most "remarkable" part of the quotation to consist in the statement that the presence of *two* alkaloids in a vegetable is remarkable, and on page 25 we are treated to some more of the remarkable. "A remarkable change occurs to the excessive smoker when he labours under influenza or fever, as he then not only loses all relish for the pipe or cigar, but even actually loathes them——" It is remarkable since, from the same causes, roast beef, and honey are often held in equal dis-relish. On pages 41 and 42, "Excessive smoking has had no small share in the degeneration of Spain, and never were men sunk in such idleness, ignorance and apathy. I am sorry to add that the Portuguese were in the same degraded condition. Germany is said to be as immersed in tobacco as Spain." Unfortunately for the author, the late Franco-German war fails to demonstrate the deplorable "idleness, indolence and apathy" of the Germans. Probably had that war occurred before the book was written, the reference to Germany would not have appeared, which, however, does not affect the "logic of events," but that can hardly be said of the "logic" of the work under review. On page 61, "A custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black, stinking form thereof, nearest resembling the horrible stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless." I have never been near enough to that pit to be able to judge accurately as to the justice of the comparison—a very fine rhetorical flourish—not quite so commendable as a specimen of logic. As I find my paper much longer already than I intended, I will give you but one more quotation, although I have in mind more than I have used, equally unsatisfactory, if regarded as proofs, or conclusive reasonings. On page 56, "The circumstance which induced Amaurath the Fourth to be so strict in punishing tobacco smokers, was the dread which he entertained of the population being thereby diminished, from the antiphrdisiac property which he supposed tobacco to possess." There are perhaps in the world no more inveterate smokers than the Irish peasantry of both sexes, and yet their children cannot be said to be "few and far between." The few quotations I have given from Lizars' work, I have taken at random

from my marginal notes, written there years ago, when I read the book; sufficient, I think, however, to show that the brochure (as the author styles it) is not sufficiently accurate to be considered a scientific authority; but as a popular treatise it "should be read by every medical man." I intended to offer arguments proving that as "sins" and "evils," drunkenness, opium smoking and eating (the latter a terribly growing evil, even now, of vast dimensions in this country) and debauchery with syphilis, were "sins" and "evils," far greater than smoking and chewing tobacco, in any and every sense, morally, mentally and physically. But I find my paper already so long that, for the present, I will content myself with having named those evils, but will be happy to furnish evidence at some future time, should it be required; meanwhile, assuming that the "sins" and "vices" actually occupy relatively the positions I have named, are not those terrible vices I have mentioned, by such statements and implied comparisons as those of Drs. Paddock and Solly, shorn of their gigantic proportions, and made to appear much less enormous than they really are, and as a legitimate conclusion, if the use of tobacco is the worse "sin" and "evil," then debauchery, drunkenness, and opium eating must be lesser evils, and, to be consistent, Drs. Paddock and Solly would advise a young man to indulge in any of them, rather than that he should smoke a pipe or cigar, which appears to me a *reductio ad absurdum*.

Yours very truly,

T. R. BUCKHAM.

Flint, Mich., Feb. 4th, 1877.

REMOVAL OF URINARY CALCULI.

(To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.)

SIR,—I was called about three months ago to see a man suffering intense pain, the effect of retention of urine, from blocking up of the neck of the bladder by urinary calculi. He had an attack of "gravel" some ten years ago; the cause, he informed me, was ascertained by the then attending surgeon, to be owing to a "stone" passing to within an inch of the end of the penis and obstructing the flow of urine, necessitating relief in some way.

The surgeon made an opening into the urethra