

food for the want of which they were perishing. Many forgot their own names and those of their comrades. Others showed more pronounced symptoms of mental disturbance, and not a few became incurably insane, the type of their insanity resembling very closely senile dementia. The cold was probably not alone responsible for these effects, for a zero temperature is rather stimulating than paralyzing in its action upon the well-fed and the healthy. These men were half-starved, poorly-clad, worn out with long marching, many already weakened by dysentery and other diseases, and all mentally depressed, as an army in defeat always is. It needed, therefore, no very unusual degree of cold to produce the psychic effects observed under other circumstances only as a consequence of exposure to an extreme low temperature.—*Medical Record*.

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THE NOSTRUM STAMP.—It appears that in 1860 the Government tax on patent concoctions produced £43,600, and that in 1892 this figure had risen to £240,000. A poor country like Italy, with embarrassed finances, declines to fill its exchequer by drawing a revenue from fraud. Every proprietary article in that country must have printed clearly on each box or bottle the name and exact amount of each ingredient. The owner may give to his production what fancy name or price he chooses; he is not required to divulge any particular method or art employed in manufacturing his goods or in rendering them more pleasant to the eye or palate; but he must make no false statements as to the source, nature or power of any drugs used or as to the effect of his medicine. For example, he may advertise his "Pectoral Pick-me-up" as the "soveran'st thing on earth" for coughs, colds, bronchitis, pleurisy, etc. But on the label he must state the name and quantity of each ingredient in every dose. Having to give the plain matter-of-fact prescription, he, of course, does not attempt to gull people by advertising his nostrum as made of "Oriental flowers grown in his own gardens in Arabia." The public buys his goods with open eyes and not from fraudulent misrepresentation. Can we not take a lesson from Italy?—*British Medical Journal*.

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COAL TAR IN DERMATOLOGICAL PRACTICE.—Leo Leistikow (*Monatsh. f. prakt. Derm.*) has used coal tar very extensively for several years in the treatment of diseases of the skin, and prefers it in many respects to other species of tar. In his out-patient practice he generally uses it diluted with equal parts of spirit. Comparative experiments—such as the application of coal tar in this form to one part of the skin while the oleum fagi, rusci or cadinum was applied