

are for the most part simply unfit for human occupation. All methods as yet proposed for the ventilation of the 'tween decks, if they do not, like those of Perkins and of Thiers, depend on the rolling movement of the hull, at least require progression as an essential condition of their efficiency, and are totally inactive when most wanted, as when moored in a tropical port. Fans enclosed in shafts have, it is true, been tried with some degree of success, but the space they occupy and the amount of mechanism which their multiplication would necessitate preclude their application to each cabin or compartment. A novel method, which may be seen at work at Messrs. Green and Sterkman's offices, 91 Queen Victoria Street, E.C., seems to offer complete solution of the problem. Its principle consists in the conveyance of compressed air from a central compressor, by common iron gas-pipes, to the several chambers, where it is discharged through nozzles in specially constructed tubes or channels communicating with the open air. The secondary current set up in these is more than twenty times as great as that proceeding from the nozzles themselves. These channels may be arranged to act as impulsion or exhaustion tubes, so that the air of the compartment can, if desired, be entirely changed in five or ten minutes. On board steamers and in factories the compressor may be worked by the engines employed for other purposes at the same time.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

DISGUISED FORMULÆ.—An American professor recently discussed in a clinical lecture the advisability of letting patients know what medicine they were taking. Obviously this must depend to a great extent, upon the patient; no small amount of tact and discretion is required in order to distinguish between those who would and those who would not be benefited by an explanation of the means to be employed. In dealing with a man of intelligence and education, there is always a temptation to enlist his confidence by affording him an insight into the nature and scope of the measures to be employed. But few medical men, probably, have escaped the disappointment of seeing their very reasons made use of to discredit their skill and impugn their ability. As a matter of fact, practitioners of mature age and experience of life seldom commit themselves to anything of the kind, or if, to gratify a patient's whim, they appear to yield to the temptation, their explanations are advisedly ambiguous. There is always a possibility that the patient may glean some information from the prescription. The official *Pharmacopœia* recognises the necessity of concealing the nature of certain preparations. Opium may be ordered under several different denominations without giving rise to the slightest suspicion of its presence. Mercury, another drug in reference to

which prejudice is general, has not been equally protected. "Hydrargyrum" is nearly as well known as the magic word "aqua." It is suggested that calomel might be written "panchymagogus querce anus," but the expression, though etymologically interesting, might prove as much of an enigma to the chemist as to the patient. The employment of the names of individuals is an effective if unscientific way of disguising the real nature of the substance ordered, where this is deemed desirable. Dover's or James' powder would checkmate the most curious and best informed of laymen, and with a small amount of archaeological research it would be easy to baffle the most persevering querist. The tendency, however, is to discard these vestiges of a cruder system, and to leave to the patient the responsibility of following the directions which have been given him. As the art of medicine advances, the practitioner learns to adopt simple and practical methods of treatment which shall acquire for him the confidence formerly obtained only by mystery of demeanor and speech.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

THE NEUROTHERAPY OF EPILEPSY.—Dr. C. L. Dana, in the *Quarterly Review*, gives the following plans of treatment of epilepsy, of different authorities.

The zinc treatment of Herpin was as follows: Give gr. ij 1-5 of zinc oxide ter. in die. Increase the dose by gr. three-fourths every week until gr. xj are taken t. i. d. Keep this up at least three months. It appears that Herpin subsequently used to add or alternate with ammonia-sulphate of copper or selinum.

The belladonna treatment of Trousseau:

Ext. belladon. fol. }
Pulv. belladon. fol. } . aa gr. 1-6. M.

Sig.—One a.m. and p.m. for one month.

Then increase the dose by one pill daily each month until twenty pills are taken night and morning. The treatment must be continued for a year.

Grover's method consists in giving the bromides in single doses at intervals of from two to five days, these single doses being gradually increased. Thus the patient takes one drachm on the first day, one and a half drachms on the third day, two drachms on the sixth day, three drachms on the ninth day, four drachms on the fourteenth day, and so on until the maximum dose of about one ounce is reached, when the drug is decreased in the same way.

I have found this a very good method if, during the intervals, tonics and adjuvant measures are employed.

The method of Meynert, in many cases is to give fifteen grains of bromide of potassium three times daily, and increase the dose by fifteen grains every time a fit occurs, until they are suppressed.