

some one among them that possessed the power of killing the microbes and at the same time that would be innocuous to the system. In this search he was unsuccessful until he discovered the power of sulphuretted hydrogen gas when introduced into the rectum. When this gas is injected into the general circulation it acts as a powerful poison, but when introduced into the rectum it is absorbed into the venous system and rapidly and entirely eliminated by the lungs. The elimination commences almost immediately, and is rapidly completed. Cases of pulmonary phthisis treated in this way soon improve, and simultaneously there is a diminution in the number of tubercle bacilli, but the author does not claim for his treatment that it acts as a microbicide. It is well known that sulphuretted hydrogen is a powerful destroyer of the lower organisms, and it is unlikely that it acts otherwise than as a microbicide. Dr. Bergeron uses the natural sulphuretted hydrogen gas of certain mineral waters in preference to the artificial gas, on account of the pain induced by the latter when driven into the intestinal tube.

Dr. J. Henry Bennett gives a full account of Bergeron's treatment in the *British Medical Journal* for Dec'r 18, 1886, and from a short experience of it he is strongly inclined to believe that it is a very important advance. If so, it will be another illustration of the benefits derivable from comparative experimental pharmacology.

Obituary.

JOSEPH MORLEY DRAKE.

It is a painful duty to have to speak of the death of this, our honored and respected colleague and *confrère*, but it is, indeed, a pleasure to recal the features of a life which was a very noble, though an arduous one. Dr. Drake was entirely a self-made man, but he won for himself in his adopted country a place of which any one might be proud, securing at the same time such universal love and respect as falls to the lot of few. He has gone to his rest, leaving behind him an example of energy, perseverance, uprightness, and conscientious discharge of duty, associated with a gentle, kind and charitable spirit, which produced the natural fruits of regard and attachment.

Dr. Drake was born in London, England, in the year 1828. In that city he received a course of chemistry at the Polytechnic