

thing! Nothing is above his notice and very little is beneath it. He is versatile, humorous and entertaining, but above all popular.

His name is constantly before the public in some connection or other, and it is a crisp, catchy sort of a name, a double name generally, and having perhaps an alliterative sound about it, a name, in fact, that sticks in the public mind and looks imposing at the bottom of a "Letter to the Editor," in a lay newspaper. And that is where the P. P. is so agreeable and condescending, he does not disdain to write to the papers. No matter what the subject, so long as he can on any pretext give to it a quasi-medical or scientific aspect, he is very much all there. He has a theory and he gives it to the public for nothing! He will even give "advice gratis" on occasion, and tell us all about the therapeutic treatment of some epidemic or other fashionable disease. He is, indeed, the very oracle of popular medicine; but that is not all, as we said before, he is up in *everything*!

Is it an assassin who has long evaded the police? Our friend is ready with his theory, and springs it on the delighted editor of an evening "ha'p'orth." Is it the appearance of a new music-hall "phenomenon?" He turns up in some other quarter with a long-winded original explanation. Is there a new soap out? He approves of it. Has there been another pet sensation murder? It has some psychological interest or significance, which has occurred only to his broad and versatile intellect, and has "quite escaped the notice of your readers;" there was some vague motive for the crime, perhaps, and he alone has discovered it; or the perpetrator is a lunatic, poor wretch, and the P. P. will tell us how he has proved this conclusively, without having even seen the accused.

There is no limit to his condescension and good nature. He will sometimes speak at a public meeting, and he is quite sure to meet with an enthusiastic welcome. It is rumored that he is not unwilling to sit on the County Council, and we devoutly hope that he may get there!

And then there is his practice, which is necessarily a large one. The old ladies just dote upon him, and he doesn't seem to mind it the least bit. Wherever he is called in there is the universally expressed opinion that he is such a "nice doctor," you seldom hear any other expression made use of, and this one just describes him, he is nothing if not "nice." He has acquired considerable knowledge of veterinary surgery and lap-dogs, and he has been known to betray a lurking tendency towards homœopathy. It need hardly be told that this gentleman is possessed of a considerable income, and an entire pew in his parish church. He has a wife—a lady of brilliant conversational power—who knows a good deal about his profession, and all about the numerous smart patients her husband goes to visit; she is naïvely communi-

cative on these matters. Needless to say she is asked out everywhere, and she goes.—C. K. J., in *Hosp. Gaz.*

THE ORIGIN OF CHOREA.—Chorea bears in many respects a great resemblance, in its onset, course, and general characters, to the group of infective diseases. In man it most frequently follows or accompanies acute articular rheumatism; it generally occurs in children aged from four to twelve years, which is the age at which there seems to be a special predisposition to infective diseases; it generally runs a definite course, and even without treatment tends to disappear after a certain period of time. These facts led Dr. Pianese to make an examination of the disease from a bacteriological point of view, and he now publishes (*Riforma Medica*, July 14th, 1891), a preliminary communication on the subject. After seven months' work, he has come to the following conclusions: (1) From the cervical portion of the cord of a patient dead of chorea he has succeeded in isolating a bacillus, which grows on the usual culture media between 20° and 38° C., develops gas when cultivated in gelatine, grows on bread paste, shows slow movements when grown in a hanging drop, forms spores, and can be stained well with carbolio-fuchsin. (2) Inoculation of this bacillus into guinea pigs, dogs and rabbits, whether subcutaneous, intraperitoneal, or intravenous, always gave negative results. (3) Inoculation under the dura mater, either of the cord or of the sciatic nerve in six dogs and thirteen rabbits gave a positive result. Inoculations into the nasal mucous membrane of four guinea pigs were also successful. (4) Inoculations into the anterior chamber of the eye in rabbits succeeded in two out of three cases. (5) In the successful cases the symptoms produced were as follows: A. tremor, sometimes general and at other times confined to special groups of muscles, particularly those of the back and shoulder; the animals became extremely irritable, even to trifling disturbance, and cried out when touched along the vertebral column. These phenomena generally appeared twenty-four hours after inoculation, and became more marked in the following days; there next appeared contracture in one or other of the limbs, and the gait became more and more uncertain and difficult; the animals got very thin and generally died on the fourth day. Guinea pigs inoculated in the nasal mucous membrane generally died in twenty-four to thirty-six hours; the dogs and rabbits inoculated in the sciatic, however, recovered completely after presenting during twenty to thirty days a general tremor, with contractures and progressive wasting. (6) In the animals which died after inoculation, bacilli were found only in the brain, cord and nerves, and cultures could be obtained from these parts. (7) The ganglion cells, especi-