

the philanthropy of the parties who permitted a *marriage* to be formalized between two individuals, one of whom was insane.

Complete absence of the Vagina.—At a meeting of the Surgical Society of Paris, M. Verneuil related a case occurring in the practice of Dr. Patry, in which, in a girl 17 years of age, there was an entire absence of the vagina when the usual phenomena of menstruation took place. An artificial vagina was established. The patient has been married eight years, and continues to menstruate regularly, but has never been pregnant.—*Med. News, from British Med. Jour.*

Pus cells in the Atmosphere.—In the Orphan Asylum near Prague, an epidemic of purulent ophthalmia took place, and 92 children out of 200 were attacked. Upon examination of the air with Pouchet's Acroscope in a ward where lay many of the children affected with it, a large number of pus cells were found. The cells were noticed upon the instruments immediately the air was made to pass through the apparatus. The Medical Society of Vienna appointed a committee to investigate the facts.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

A question as regards Impostors.—Our contemporary the *Med. and Surg. Reporter* quaintly makes the following remarks on this subject. "A Court in France has lately decided that a person who makes a diagnosis, or treats a patient in a mesmeric trance, is not an impostor. We would be pleased to have the same Court decide to what category of animals or things such persons do belong, if not to that of "impostors." The Court bases its decision upon the ground that "the inefficacy of such a diagnosis has not been scientifically proven." Would its "efficacy" in a given case elevate such diagnosis to the dignity of being scientific." (We would submit the foregoing to the Honorable Hermanus Smith, M.D. of some American College, but a member of the Legislative Council of this Province. From his remarks in favour of the Eclectic Medical Bill, at the last Parliament and which passed solely through his energy, we know of no one more competent to answer the question thus put by our contemporary in this Province, and we question if his equal could be met with in the United States. Dr. Smith's perception of medical theories and matters seems to bear a ratio with his height and density. They are spiritualized to a most remarkable extent.—Ed. B. A. G.)

The number of Physicians in the United States.—The Nashville Journal states the number at 40,481. In Massachusetts there is 1 to every 605 inhabitants; in New York 1 to 611; in Pennsylvania 1 to 561; in North Carolina 1 to 802; in Ohio 1 to 465; in Maine 1 to 884; in California 1 to 860; and the Journal states that "in one Village in Vermont there is one to every 100 inhabitants." If this be the fact, we cannot think that Sam Slick ever visited it during his immortal travels, or that they manufactured wooden clocks or nutmegs in such a spot.

A wooden leg-acy.—The late J. N. Bowditch of Boston, among other bequests left to the Massachusetts General Hospital \$5,000 as a fund to be called the "wooden-leg fund," the income to be applied toward defraying the expenses of wooden-legs for patients who have been obliged to submit to amputation. Females are preferred to males in the selection of proper cases.

Cholera in Calcutta.—From recent advices it appears that this scourge is now raging in a frightful degree in Calcutta and its neighbourhood.

Royal Society of London.—Dr. Brown-Sequard recently delivered the Croonian Lecture. The subject was "on the relations between muscular irritability, cadaveric rigidity, and Putrefaction."

Surgeon-General of the United States.—Dr. Finlay of Pennsylvania succeeds Dr. Lawson, recently deceased, to this important office.

Dr. Gibbs of South Carolina is Surgeon in Chief of the Confederate army.

Dr. Eve of Nashville holds the office of Surgeon General to the Volunteer Forces of Tennessee.—*N. A. Medico-Chir. Review.*