

men, which may possibly exist in amount sufficient to block the aspirating needle more or less completely. The joint having been thus emptied, the limb is fixed on a splint and pressure applied. After a few days it is found that pain is quite absent, and the joint scarcely at all full of fluid, while in two or three weeks cure seems to be quite effectual. A plaster of Paris bandage is recommended to be worn for a time. The situation advised for insertion of the needle is the outer side of the joint opposite the upper edge of the patella, and in case a reaccumulation of fluid takes place Dr. Richardson advises that a repetition of the operation should be resorted to, but he insists on the propriety of not adopting it in the first instance until the less radical means of alleviating the condition of the joint have received fair trial. He reports several cases in illustration of the advantage derived from the proceeding; in all very marked improvement and restoration of usefulness took place.—*Med. Press and Circular*.

#### A NEW ELIXIR OF LIFE.

The celebrated scientist, M. Brown-Séquard, has recently been making some marvellous, if not startling, discoveries. He has been making experiments (as reported in *Progrès Médical*) with a view to ascertain the effects produced on the system by the action of the testicles on the blood circulating through them. We find that he has been studying this subject for twenty years, and during that time has done a fair amount of experimenting. In 1875 he found in one instance that grafts containing testicular matter had a wonderful effect on an old and broken-down dog, inasmuch as it endowed him anew with the friskiness of youth. Latterly, M. Brown-Séquard has been experimenting on himself by using subcutaneous injections of blood from the spermatic veins of a young animal mixed with the juice obtained by crushing its testicles with a little water. He is said to be verging on fourscore, and therefore the results of such experiments will prove of great interest.

He reports the following effects: His muscular strength has returned in great measure; that torment of the aged, intestinal atony, has disappeared, so that defecation has become normal again; the bladder has regained its contractility, as shown by increase of force in the stream of urine; mental exertion has become easy again; and finally there are many other manifestations of return to youthful vigor. When these remarkable facts were reported to the Paris Société de Biologie, some of the members were unkind enough to throw doubts on the conclusions and attribute the results to imagination. What the majority thought, we know not; but it has been suggested that, if the great scientist, once old and enfeebled, but now reju-

vinated and frisky as a kitten, is correct, vast possibilities may be huddled together in the testicles, and possibly also in the ovaries. If it happen that testicle juice or ovary cutlets will restore youthful vigor and friskiness, what a shaking up there will be of the dry bones of the aged and feeble! M. Brown-Séquard will not have lived in vain, his elixir will be the most popular of modern nostrums. Great is science, and truly wonderful are her discoveries. In the meantime there is likely to be a large and immediate demand for young testicles, and small boys and dog pups had better not wander far from their protectors.—*Editor Canadian Practitioner*.

#### TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA.

Mr. John Raye has obtained excellent results from a treatment that he summarizes as follows: If laryngeal breathing is present, apply large sponges, well wrung out of boiling water, to the throat for at least an hour, changing the sponges as they grow cold. The sponge is easily prepared by putting it in a strong towel whose ends are hung over the edges of a basin, and then pouring boiling water over the sponge and wringing it dry by twisting the ends of the towel in opposite directions. The nurse can judge whether the child can bear the sponge by applying it to her own naked elbow. As soon as possible get carbolic steam around the patient and spray the throat, driving the spray down to the epiglottis, with sulphurous acid,  $\frac{5}{8}$  ss to  $\frac{3}{4}$  i; syrup,  $\frac{3}{4}$  iii or  $\frac{3}{4}$  iv; water to  $\frac{5}{8}$  vii. This spray is to be used three or four minutes every hour or two, three or four hours according to its effect on the membrane. Give a mixture of sulphurous acid,  $\frac{3}{4}$  i; syr. aurantii,  $\frac{3}{4}$  iii or  $\frac{3}{4}$  iv; water to  $\frac{3}{4}$  vi or  $\frac{3}{4}$  viii, with or without quinine or chlorate of potash, 1-6 or  $\frac{1}{2}$ , as the case may be, every two, three or four hours, according to symptoms; in severe cases every half hour. Give plenty of liquid nourishment from the first, with a liberal allowance of port wine and bark or brandy, according to the state of the heart, pulse and general condition of the patient. When the danger of the acute stage is past give iron, quinine and strychnine, or cod liver oil, and treat symptoms as they arise. For children of about three years the following mixture is enough:—

Sulphurous acid,	$\frac{3}{4}$ ii to $\frac{3}{4}$ iii
Syrup,	$\frac{3}{4}$ ii to $\frac{3}{4}$ iiss
Water,	$\frac{3}{4}$ iv

One or two teaspoonfuls every hour or two hours. The spray as for adults. I am certain that if the case is treated early the disease will be cut short; in severe cases one may confidently predict a favorable result, and even in very severe cases—cases I formerly would have looked on as hopeless—a reasonable and just hope can