

## *Medical Miscellany.*

---

**Julia's Incubator.**—*Lyon Médical* for March 19th remarks upon the habit among women of using the bosom—the space between the mammary glands—as a repository for various articles, letters, the watch, the purse, and the like. Our contemporary goes on to say that Julia, daughter of Augustus Cæsar, being pregnant, was desirous of giving birth to a son. In order to ascertain the sex of her unborn child, she carried an egg in her bosom. The augury was auspicious; a cock was hatched from the egg, and she bore her husband a son.

**Meat Extracts.**—Of what are meat extracts made? This is a rather delicate question, which it would be imprudent to sound to the bottom. To suppose that the flesh of old horses, dead from exhaustion or disease, forms a large percentage of the raw material of these products is a permissible hypothesis, but it is rather too indulgent. A judgment recently given by an English police court justifies the worst suspicions. This judgment ordered the destruction of fifty tons of decomposed livers, which were intended for use in making “the delicious meat extracts” for the use of convalescents.—*Med. Mod.*

**The Tabetic Eye.**—M. Gilles de la Tourette (*Journal des Praticiens*, March 11th), in a recent communication to the *Société médicale des Hopitaux*, says that the ocular manifestations of tabes are numerous, since this disease affects the retina, the external muscles, and even the lacrymal passages. There is one symptom, however, which he does not remember to have seen noticed elsewhere. He has often, he says, seen to enter his consulting room a patient whose normal gait gave no suggestion of locomotor trouble, and at first glance has nevertheless marked him for a tabetic patient by the aspect of his eyes. It was not a question of meiosis, which, when punctiform and found in blue irides, suggests tabes, but a peculiar brilliant appearance of the eye, which, nevertheless, is expressionless. This appears to the author to be a valuable early sign of the disease. It is independent of the condition of the pupils, which does not modify it, and is especially easy to note in those whose irides are dark in color.