

was able to throw any additional light on the subject by bringing the microscope to bear on it, he would be the first to adopt the data thus obtained when once they were fairly established. No one could or did appreciate more highly than himself the great amount of labour and skill shown by Dr. Beck in his dissections on the uterus; and he could only regret the unmitigated opposition which he (Dr. Bennet) met with from Dr. Beck. He would briefly add, that he had never said or written that severe uterine disease was common in virgins, but exactly the reverse; that he had most positively given no case in his work in which a virgin female was examined because she had a slight pain in her back the first day of menstruation; and that, on examining the uterus Dr. Beck had shown to the society that evening he did not see any evidence of an abnormally open state of the os uteri. This condition in inflammation he referred to paralysis of the muscular fibres that lay underneath the inflamed mucous membrane. This paralysis also occurred in acute bronchitis, giving rise to emphysema; and in enteritis, giving rise to tampanitis. Of course there were exceptions to the rules which he had laid down, as Dr. Crisp and Dr. Barnes had very properly said. What he had stated was merely that inflammation of the os and cervical canal opening the external orifice—an open state of the os, as recognised by the finger—was a conspicuous circumstance which authorized further inquiry. A fibrous tumor, or pregnancy, or even cancer, might evidently render the os patulous without inflammation being present.—*Lon. Med. Gaz*

MATERIA MEDICA.

Water Mellon Seeds as a Diuretic.
—In the November No. of the *Charleston Medical Journal*, Dr. Hook, of St. Matthews, S. C., bears strong testimony to the value of the seed of the water-melon as a diuretic, and gives a very interesting case illustrative of its powers. The editors of the *Charleston Journal* join their testimony with that of Dr. Hook, and we are able to corroborate their favorable opinion. Dr. Hook recommends that two ounces of the seed be bruised and a pint of boiling water

poured over them. After cooling, one gill of this is taken at a dose, and in this way, is not only a demulcent, but an excellent diuretic.

But we can assure Dr. Hook that we have seen much finer diuretic effects from the formula we subjoin, than from any other diuretic we have ever used. It has often succeeded when all others failed. In 1838, we reported in the predecessor of this Journal, a very remarkable case of suffering in the kidneys and bladder, in which the calls to urinate was almost incessant for two days and nights, and only one or two drops could be passed at a time. The pain complained of resembled that described as an attendant upon stone in the bladder. Hip bathing, purgatives, emetics, opiates, and the usual round of diuretics failed to give any relief. The patient seemed to be sinking rapidly under the combined efforts of pain, agitation, vigilance, and exhaustion. The anti-lithic paste was then resorted to for the first time, by the writer, and in less than half an hour after it was given the patient was easy, and slept for several hours. The kidneys acted freely, and all suffering ceased. Since that time abundant opportunities have presented themselves for the use of this paste, and its effects are uniformly all that the physician and patient can desire.

The formula for this paste was taught by Professor John E. Coke, and he gave strong testimony to its value.

The following is the receipt:

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| R Castile soap, | ℥iv. |
| Spermacetti, | ℥viiij. |
| Ven. Turpentine, | 3vi |
| Ol. Anniseed, | 3iiij. |
| Tumeric, | 3ij. |
| Honey, | q. s. |

Rub the soap and spermacetti well together, then add the tumeric; after rubbing them well, add turpentine and ol. anniseed; and sweeten with honey.

Of this paste, a piece the size of a nutmeg is given two or three times a day. The diseases in which it is most useful are those in which the mucous membrane is involved. There is a species of hoarseness which follows inflammatory action, and which often approaches aphonia, in which this paste is a very valuable remedy.—*Western Journal of Medicine & Surgery.*