

A SOURCE OF INCOME.—Among the many curious customs which prevail in Vienna, is one which has a direct bearing on the income to the general hospital, and through which a large sum is annually collected. Each householder who can afford the expense of a servant is bound by a contract to see to the health of his employee, and in case of sickness is responsible for the bill for medical attendance; if, however, he pays to the treasury of the hospital twelve florins a year for each servant, he is entitled in case of illness to send the patient to the hospital for treatment without further expense. But if he has not subscribed, and one of his servants enters the hospital, the authorities will collect from him the full amount of the fee.

Miss Kate Field tells the following, illustrative of one of the benefits of cremation. A lady, visiting some friends, neglected to bring her tooth powder. Looking about her bed-chamber she noticed an elegant vase. On removing the cover, she found a grayish, calcareous powder. This she regarded as a dentifrice, and proceeded to avail herself of the discovery, finding it very satisfactory. The next day she mentioned the fact to her hostess, apologizing for making free with her tooth powder. The countenances of the family expressed various emotions, which at last found vent in the gasp of one of the daughters: "Why, that's aunty." Thus, as a tooth powder, the ashes of the cremated are a success.—*American Lancet*.

More editorial amenities: The *Weekly Medical Review* says that "the able, gentlemanly senior editor of the *Kansas City Medical Index* allows his cub too much license." In commenting on the *Texas Courier Record's* statement that Lawson Tait operates in his own hospital, keeps his patients under his own hands, watching them with much care, and exercising the greatest cleanliness, our St. Louis contemporary says: "Yes, and even though he does all this, we would as soon believe that he could turn water into wine, raise the dead Lazarus, feed five thousand hungry travellers with five loaves and seven fishes, or perform any other miracle,

as to swallow his statement that he had operated 138 consecutive times on as many unselected cases of ovarian tumor without a single death," which remark excites a sort of suspicion that Kansas City does not have a monopoly of the cubs.

A story is told by a French paper of Baron von Humboldt, who, during one of his visits to Paris, expressed to his friend, Dr. Blanche, the distinguished authority on matters concerning insanity, a desire to meet one of his patients.

"Nothing easier" said Dr. Blanche. "Come and take dinner with me to-morrow."

Next day Humboldt found himself seated at the dinner-table of the famous alienist, in company with two unknown guests. One of them, who dressed in black, with white cravat, gold-bowed spectacles, and who had a smooth face and very bald head, sat with great gravity through the entire dinner. He was evidently a gentleman of undoubted manners but very taciturn. He bowed, ate, and said not a word.

The other guest, on the contrary, wore a great shock of hair brushed wildly into air; his shabby blue coat was buttoned askew, his collar was rumpled, and the ends of his crazy necktie floated over his shoulders. He helped himself, ate and chatted at the same time.

Story upon story did this incoherent person pile up. He mixed the past with the present, flew from Swedenborg to Fourier, from Cleopatra to Jenny Lind, from Archimedes to Lamartine, and talked politics and literature in the same breath.

At the dessert Humboldt leaned over and whispered in his host's ear, glancing at the same time at the fantastic personage, whose discourse was still running on.

"I am very much obliged to you. Your maniac has greatly amused me."

"My maniac!" said the doctor, starting back. "Why, that isn't the lunatic! It's the other one."

"What! The one who hasn't said a word?"

"Certainly."

"But who in the world can the man be who has talked in this fashion all the while?"

"That is Balzac, the famous novelist."—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*