

Mason offered no objection to, but, on the contrary, did everything to facilitate the experiment. Failing in obtaining *glonoine* for the purposes of the experiment, strychnia was resorted to; and the object was to determine, if possible, the minimum quantity capable of inducing death. Accordingly, in conjunction with Dr. David, and Messrs. Lyman and Cary, I went to the livery stables of Mr. Mason, on January 31st, and at 3h 24m administered 2 grains of strychnia, dissolved in 3ij. of whisky, and 3iv. of water. The pulse, examined before the exhibition of the strychnia, was 40 in the minute, and the animal was in full spirits.

3h 30m. The pulse was now 44. This might have been due to the exercise of walking, which we made him undergo.

3h 35m. No apparent effects perceptible. Two grains more were exhibited in the same manner.

3h 41m. Pulse 40.

3h 46m. The horse cheerful, disposed to play, and to kick when teased.

3h 49m. No apparent effects perceptible. Two additional grains were administered under like circumstances to the former; the horse still as active and fresh as before, the poison not having taken the slightest effect; kicking and attempting to bite when teased; and was made to leap several times over a bar placed for the purpose. During the half hour now intervening, he escaped from the yard, and trotted actively up to the Place d'Armes, a distance of about 350 or 400 yards, whither he was followed and brought back. He had now taken six grains of the strychnia, without the slightest perceptible effect, and I resolved to double the dose now taken. Accordingly at

4h 19m, six additional grains of strychnia were given, at one dose, under the same circumstances as the preceding ones, and the effects of the poison now soon began to manifest themselves.

4h 25m. Slight trembling of the tail. The animal otherwise cheerful.

4h 26m. Trembling of the tail more marked; pulse 60; the animal still disposed to eat.

4h 30m. Belly drawn up; loins hooped; abdominal muscles slightly convulsed, with convulsive twitches of the forelegs, stiffness of the joints, and difficulty of locomotion; the latter apparently depending on commencing muscular rigidity.

4h 33m. Sides and belly as hard as a drum, due to apparent tonic spasm of the abdominal muscles; trembling very much increased, and perceptible over the whole body; tail shaking very much. Pulse 64. Animal still sensible, and disposed to kick when teased,

although unable, from the affected condition of the muscles of the hind legs.

4h 36m. The trembling more increased, and the animal evidently in a state of alarm. On attempting to walk, was scarcely able to move a leg. All the other symptoms still existent.

4h 40m. In attempting to reach the stable door, the horse slipped his foot and fell, and shortly afterwards had a general, but not severe, attack of spasm, in which the hind legs seemed chiefly engaged. The respiration was laborious and forced; a copious sweat broke out over his whole body. His alarm was excessive, almost hydrophobic; the waving of a handkerchief, or even the hand, at the distance of several feet from the eyes, excited an apparent desire of escape; the faculties were therefore still unclouded. Two attempts to raise him to the erect posture were unavailingly made. On the first occasion, he was put on his legs, but immediately fell. In the course of about five minutes, a tetanic spasm affected the whole body, in which, for the first time, the muscles of the face participated. The lips were drawn tightly backwards, the eyeballs retracted; the membrana nictitans closed over the eyes, and gradually returned; the eyeballs became fixed, and at 4h 55m the animal ceased to live, exactly 36 minutes after the exhibition of the six grain dose, and 1h 30m after the exhibition of the first. In all he had taken twelve grains; the first six grains of which did not appear to have been productive of the slightest apparent influence, even after the lapse of half an hour.

A post mortem examination was out of the question, as the chief parts of interest, viz., the brain and spinal column, in this examination, would have interfered with Mr. Mason's intentions in the sacrifice of the animal.

Montreal, February, 1850.

## PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND PATHOLOGY.

*The Three Kinds of Cod Liver Oil.*—By J. L. de Jongh, M.D. of the Hague.—We always hail with lively satisfaction the addition, to our stock of armour, of a new weapon, with which we may successfully do battle with the king of terrors. To snatch a single victim from his relentless grip, is a great triumph to our divine art. But if it be accounted a victory to rescue a certain number from impending death, in diseases indiscriminately, how much more signal must be the victory, if we can stay the progress of that increasing scourge of our race, tubercular phthisis. All eyes are now directed to the cod liver oil, as the forlorn hope the great agent by means of which this grand and desirable result is to be accomplished. First employed about the middle of the last century, in the treatment of gout, and afterwards by Ferriol, in that of chronic rheumatism, this therapeutic agent has gradually risen in importance as its value in the treatment of other affections has become known, until it now occupies a very prominent position among the articles of the materia medica; enjoying, as it does,