

**OBESITY.**—A French journal recommends a mode of dieting for curing obesity, which is attributed to an army doctor. A colonel, who was threatened to be retired from the army, as he was so heavy that it required two men to lift him into the saddle, became thin in a few weeks, and to such extent that he had to take means to recover what he had lost. The means consisted simply in not eating more than *one* dish at any meal. It is said by doing this the stomach never takes too much. Nevertheless nothing but the one dish should be taken; no condiments or soups or supplementary dessert should be allowed.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

**AMYL NITRITE FOR AFTER-PAINS.**—I have had several cases in which the pains were exhaustingly severe, and in which I was glad to turn to nitrite of amyl. This potent drug is a very efficient controller of after-pains, and, used cautiously, I see no reason to apprehend harm from it. A neat way to use it is to saturate a small piece of tissue paper with five or six drops, stuff this into a two-drachm vial, and request the patient to draw the cork and inhale the odor when she feels the pain coming on. It acts with magical celerity.—*Dr. Winterburn in Journal of Obstetrics.*

**A USEFUL** lotion for sprains, erysipelas, and burns is made by mixing together rectified spirit, 3 fluid drachms; solution of acetate of lead (B.P.), 2 fluid drachms; and distilled water, 6 fluid ounces. Linen cloths wet with this lotion are kept applied to the part affected, and changed as often as they become warm or dry.—*Magazine of Pharmacy.*

**CALOMEL** is recommended by Dr. J. B. James, of London, as an excellent topical application for hemorrhoids. It is said to relieve all pain and uneasiness, and enables the patient to attend to his usual business without inconvenience.—*Medical Fortnightly.*

**VERATRUM VIRIDE** is highly recommended for the palpitations and hot flashes of the climacteric.

## Miscellaneous.

**THE DOCTOR AND THE HOTEL CLERK.**—A good story is told of the late Dr. Thayer, of Burlington, concerning his experience at a hotel in Cincinnati, where he stopped while attending a National Medical Congress many years ago. Arriving somewhat late in the evening, he went immediately to bed. Upon inspecting his bill before leaving, Dr. Thayer saw he was charged for a supper the night of his arrival, and inquired as to same, saying he had had no supper that night. "But," the clerk said, "you were here; you *might* have had it." "Oh, well," said the doctor, "I can fix that," whereupon he immediately made out a bill against the hotel for medical services, the amount covering the charge for the supper. Upon presenting the same to the clerk, the latter said: "Doctor, I was not aware we had called on you for professional service." "Oh, no," said Dr. Thayer, "but I was here, and you *might* have done so." The procedure, being so original, so pleased the proprietor that he presented Dr. Thayer with his whole bill, and asked him cordially to make him a visit in the future.—*Dr. J. H. Linsley in Medical Record.*

A **NOTABLE** instance of the tendency towards specialization in business is offered by the recent action of the long-established drug house known as Stewart W. Johnston, of this city. Observing the already great and rapidly increasing number of specialties for the use of the physician being turned out by the large manufacturers, Mr. Johnston conceived the idea of aggregating all these articles under one roof, and for this purpose disposed of his retail business and organized a joint stock company with headquarters at No. 200 King street west, where they are prepared to fill orders for recent pharmacal combinations, new remedies, absorbent dressings, fine chemicals, etc., etc. The Messrs. Johnston invite correspondence.

**THE RESIDUARY LEGATEE.**—A very curious case was recently tried at Bolton, in Lancashire, and a decision arrived at which will be interesting to hospital surgeons. A farmer sued the house surgeon of the Bolton Infirmary for £10.