

which has attended the employment of the several methods of milk-testing hitherto in use, is to be attributed in some measure to the fact that upon any scale that can be devised, upon any principle whatever, there is not one point to which we can refer as a standard of purity. The nearest approach we can make to the establishment of such a standard is to ascertain, by experimenting on several specimens of average quality and known purity, whether we can seize upon some physical property which admits of sufficiently accurate measurement for the purpose; then, it has been ascertained that an inferior quality is indicated when the specific gravity is below a certain range—but this can be raised artificially by the abstraction of some of the cream; an inferior quality is also indicated when the per-centage of cream is less than a certain number; but the instrument employed for exhibiting this per-centage is found to be fallacious, inasmuch as it only shows how much cream has floated to the surface in a given time, and experiment has proved that the richer the milk the less is the cream disposed to float. Many persons are able to judge pretty accurately as to the quality of milk, by carefully observing the transparency which the fluid exhibited when poured in a thin film from one vessel to another; and it would appear that this property, which has already suggested the instrument of M. Donné, might be again turned to account in the construction of a more simple instrument, which would indicate definitely, and enable us to register numerically, the degree of transparency possessed by a given sample; and we should be thus in possession of a very efficient means of estimating the degree to which the milk had been diluted, or how far it fell short of the average quality.

Such an instrument has lately been invented; the principle of its construction is extremely simple, and the experiments instituted with a view of testing its performance, several series of which have been repeated, appear to have been attended with the most satisfactory and encouraging results. The instrument is made of brass, in the form of a shallow, oblong vessel, capable of containing about an ounce of fluid; the depth of the vessel is made to increase gradually, by means of a slab of white enamel fixed in a gentle slope from one end to the other; this slab is graduated throughout its entire length. Upon this the milk is poured till the vessel is filled, and a cover of plate glass is then put on—this should be done by giving it a sliding motion, to exclude air bubbles. When the vessel full of milk is thus covered, the degree of dilution possessed by the sample under examination is estimated by the number of degrees on the enamel which can be read through the glass cover; for, the glass being in contact with the edge of the enamel plate at one end, and separated from it by a gradually increasing interval towards the other, the intervening stratum of milk is made to assume the form of a thin wedge. If the fluid under examination be of a rich quality, abounding in oily and caseous particles, it will possess such an amount of opacity that only a few degrees can be discovered on the subjacent enamel when the instrument is held opposite to the light; if, on the contrary, the specimen be of inferior quality, whether from innate poverty, or the admixture of water, the diminution of opacity thence resulting will be evinced by the enamel scale becoming visible through a deeper part of the fluid, or at a greater distance from the commencement of the scale; the degree of translucency, therefore, can be measured by the number of lines visible through the fluid.—*Pharmaceutical Journal*, Aug. 1860.

NEW APPLICATION OF CHLOROFORM IN NEURALGIA AND IN CERTAIN RHEUMATIC COMPLAINTS.

[At a meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh, Mr. Little, F.R.C.S.E., of Singapore, made the following communication, which we reprint from the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* for April, 1860.—Eps. *Boston Medical Journal*.]

During my residence at Singapore, East Indies, I was at one time in the habit of using liquor ammoniæ to produce an immediate blister, when instantaneous counter-irritation was thought necessary in certain cerebral affections, &c.—a piece of lint soak-