

cases, two being males and two females, their ages ranging from twelve to forty, the onset of the disease was accompanied by the catching of a severe cold, with chills and headache; in six cases, five males and one female, their ages ranging from twelve to twenty-three, the illness began by getting wet through. The cases themselves were severe ones, as is proved by their prolonged stay in the hospital and the death of two of the patients. Shall we, in the face of such unbiased evidence, say that some other cause is needed to explain the origin and development of enteric fever? If we say that a wetting on a cold day, in either summer or winter, is not of itself enough to kill a strong man, we deny a daily experience. In killing him it causes a severe internal congestion, and this being so, why and how should the mucous surface, the more vascular internal skin, escape? The intestines, from their arrangement and the length of their bloodvessels, are the part of the body most of all liable to congestion, and yet modern medicine can only recognize the existence of an enteritis under the form of a specific fever, with its incubation period, its days, its specific ulceration, and its specific poison. Such metaphysical scholasticism is not science, but the very sublimation of presumption, for it takes things for granted which have never been proved, but, on the contrary, can be easily disproved. In order to open up a free and unbiased view of enteric fever, I have thought it necessary to declare my views thus strongly; it is nearly twenty-five years since I first broached them in the first volume of Reynolds' System of Medicine, but the influence of a scholastic training would, I felt convinced, prevent their recognition, and that nothing short of a military campaign would suffice to expose the true nature of enteric fever, by demonstrating its natural associations, and proving that its development is but a mere accident in the progress of those severe congestive strains of the internal organs which always happen to those who, imperfectly protected against diurnal variations of temperature, are exposed to the exigencies of warfare. Such evidence is now available, and is contained both in the history of the Franco-Prussian

War and that of the American War of the Rebellion, the latter of which I shall take for my present purpose. It is compiled from the reports of a great number of competent observers, and collated and revised with the greatest care; but the reader of this treasury of medical experience will not fail to observe that, with few exceptions, the labourers employed in its formation have been strongly influenced by the sophistry of the schools. Being bound by artificial restrictions, they are at their wits' end to know how to classify their cases: whether, for example, this particular one shall go among the malarial or the typho-malarial, or whether it does not properly belong to a specific typhoid. As a matter of fact, they—we, I should say—shackle ourselves with the prejudices derived from our teaching, and we weave a veil through which it is difficult to see nature. It is easy to learn, but next to impossible to unlearn, so indelible are early impressions. How careful, therefore, as expositors of nature, we should be that our teaching may be so true and simple that there shall be nothing of it to unlearn.—*London Lancet.*

CRIMINAL ABORTION BY INFILTRATION OF THE UTERUS WITH AIR.

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On the 19th of November last I was consulted by the district attorney of Rensselaer county with reference to giving expert evidence in a case to be tried before the Supreme Court in which the prisoner was indicted for manslaughter in the first degree. At the trial, which came off a few days later, the following facts were sworn to:

The attending physician, Dr. C., swore that on the night of the 18th of June, at about 11 o'clock, the prisoner came to his office and told him that a woman with whom he had been living, and who was three months pregnant, had, a few minutes previously, introduced into her uterus a rubber catheter into which he