

gogue properties, but it is questionable; nevertheless, it certainly stimulates the intestinal glands.

Calomel is a powerful purgative, but whether it stimulates the liver is still *sub judice*.

Corrosive sublimate is a potent hepatic stimulant, but acts feebly on the intestines.

Sulphate of potash is a powerful intestinal irritant, but its action on the liver is variable and unreliable.

Taraxacum is a feeble hepatic stimulant.

Dilute nitro-muriatic acid has a moderate stimulant action on the liver.

Boldo, bromide of potassium, nitrate of potash, and hard soap, have each some stimulant action on the liver.—*Am. Med Digest.*

HOW TO ADVANCE MEDICINE.—Advance in medicine must be looked for by a better insight into the causes of disease; by a study of pathology in its very widest signification, which shall include not only morbid anatomy, but all those changes in the blood and nervous system which often constitutes the *fons et origo malis*. These causes may be found to be of a specific nature, or to exist in the ordinary surroundings of our lives. Of whatever kind they may be, a discovery of their detrimental influence will lead to the means of their removal.

Then, again, much success may be hoped for on making a more complete study of diseases when actually running their course before us, by observing which are the favorable and which the unfavorable circumstances which determine the issue of the case; and not only the surroundings should be noted, but the meaning of the symptoms should be investigated, so as to discover which to encourage and which to oppose.

When we have arrived at some knowledge acquired by these means, the action of drugs may be considered, and the conditions which suggest their employment. As I have before said, it is by no means sufficient to know the physiological action of a medicine, but rather how it will exert an influence on various pathological phenomena. To quote again the instance of digitalis, we require to know not only its action on a healthy heart and arteries, but what power it exerts on quickly acting hearts, for whose correction we now see it daily given.

In upholding these views, I am of necessity protesting against the so-called popular theory, that diseases are so many entities, whose symptoms are to be relieved by some drug; or, as I have seen it expressed in a book on the most wide-spread heresy of the day, that since it has pleased the Almighty to visit his children with various ailments, so he has provided in the herbs of the field some remedy for their cure. This is both an untruth and an absurdity; or, as a member of Parliament declared in the House of Commons, when

denouncing restriction on medical practice, that all collegiate training was useless, the medical art being a gift with which some persons were naturally endowed. It need scarcely be said that he was the patron of the most flourishing quack in the country. If medicine is a branch of science, it must be studied in the same way as other sciences, by observation and experiment. There must first be a study of anatomy and physiology; then a study of disease, as seen in the living subject, and in its results on the dead; then, again, an investigation into the action of remedies of all kinds, and their suitability to the amelioration of morbid states; efficient treatment can only follow by a complete adoption of all these methods. By making it the result of a scientific procedure, we are assisting to stay the degeneracy of medicine, which is ever apt to constitute treatment the very foundation of our art, the alpha as well as omega. — Dr. Wilkes, in *Brit. Med. Journal*.

THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS ON MILK.—In a medico-legal case *MM. Brouardel and Pouchet* were asked whether an infant of two months could have been poisoned fatally through its mother's milk the mother having been for some time under treatment with arsenic, and on several occasions having shown symptoms of arsenical poisoning. To settle the point *M. Brouardel* made a number of experiments by giving Fowler's solution to nursing women, the result of which showed that arsenic can readily be found in the milk, even when taken in small doses, but that no toxic symptoms are likely to be produced in the child unless the mother be takign a toxic dose.

Fehling has lately experimented upon the subject of the elimination of drugs by the milk, and found that salicylate of soda, iodide of potash and iodoform can all be traced to the urine of the nursling, the latter drug when taken in very small quantities, and even when applied externally. Hence he advises against its use as a dressing for wounds in nursing women. He has also found corrosive sublimate in the urine of children whose nurses had the drug applied externally, but the quantity passing to the child was so small that he thinks it unnecessary to use the same precautions with corrosive sublimate as with iodoform. The narcotic substances are without effect upon the nursling. The largest doses of opium or chloral administered to the nurse do not bring about any especial symptoms in the child. Atropine was tried on animals, and no dilation of the pupil or other manifestations occur in the suckling, excepting when the maximum therapeutic dose has been exceeded. Fehling therefore comes to the conclusion that while but few drugs administered to the mother prove deleterious to the infant, a strong exception, however, should be made of those substances that are eliminated with difficulty and accumulate in the