

but spreads itself over the extremities of the nerves, as is the case in rheumatic prosopalgia.

In all, nine cases of prosopalgia have been treated by him with veratrine, four of which came under his care from the commencement of the attack, and were cured in from three to four days—the longest being seven to eight days—by means of veratrine rubbings. In two epidemics of whooping-cough, M. G. found that by rubbing in veratrine over the vertebra of the neck and upper part of the back, there was great relief experienced where the second stage was protracted in its length. The striking influence of veratrine on the urinary secretions has often been ascertained in general dropsy, as well of the skin as of the cavities, especially in cases where no organic disease was apparent: even where this was evident, M. G. has often observed benefit, even if only of a palliative character. The cases treated were some of them the result of cold, causing, instead of inflammatory rheumatism, an enormous exudation into the serous cavities, and other secondary dropsies after previously existing inflammations. But more marked effects were observed in dropsies consequent upon long and exhausting disease; as, in particular, after a severe typhoid epidemic he observed.

The last disease noticed, and that to which M. G. first directed his experiments with respect to the employment of veratrine, is paralysis. In three cases of paralysis of the facial nerve, consequent upon colds, the frictions with veratrine were employed with the most complete success, the power being restored in from six to thirteen days. In two cases of paralysis after apoplexy, one in a man 74 years old and the other in a man 62 years old, after all evidences of congestion and irritation had been removed, by means of antiphlogistic treatment, and the paralysis alone was left, M. G. employed the veratrine frictions with entire relief of this symptom. These are the only instances of this affection which he has as yet had an opportunity to treat; but they were so successful that he would recur to the use of this medicine whenever a similar condition presented itself to his observation.—*Zeitschrift für Therapie en Pharmakodynamik*. Freiburg, Dec. 1844. No. 3.

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### PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

*Qui didicit patriæ quid debeat, et quid amicis,*

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*Reddere personæ scit convenientia cuique.*

*Horatii Op.*

There is scarcely anything in a free country, where competition is nearly unlimited, upon which the respectability of the medical profession is so dependant as the strict preservation of that professional etiquette, which practitioners ought to acknowledge with regard to each other. Nothing can be clearer, than that the best, most scientific, and most enlightened practice must be looked upon with distrust and contempt by the community at large, when they see men engaged in the same pursuits, attempting to secure a livelihood by the same means, of, it may be, equal talents, discrimination and zeal, having recourse to the miserable trick of casting reproach upon each other's practice. What procedure is more likely to throw discredit on the science of medicine?

What more certain to degrade the profession in the eyes of the public, and to reduce to a level with the itinerant empiric and pretender, the man of education? Surely it will be conceded that the science of medicine cannot be benefited by such a course. It may prove advantageous to him who adopts it; it may be a means of garnishing well his pockets with the goods of this world; but sooner or later the miserable trick, the paltry subterfuge will be exposed, and the scorn and contempt of the profession which he has insulted and discredited, in his recourse to an expedient unworthy of an educated and an honest man, will as certainly not fail to overtake him. Every injury thus inflicted on the individual, is felt by the profession at large, of which he is a member. It cannot be otherwise, for in its very nature and essence, it casts discredit and disrepute on scientific practice, and opens wide the door for all the evils of unblushing quackery, between which and the former the distinctive characteristics become at once obliterated. Every medical man knows the susceptibility of the public to imposition of this nature. In fact, nobody knows better than he how easy it is to impose in this style, and how difficult it is to make people believe the imposition. It may be an invidious and thankless task to expose it. Be it so. We risk the thanks on what we conceive to be our duty, that of proscribing those vile attempts which destroy the confidence of the public in that honourable profession which most of our readers have selected, and the integrity of which each member is bound in his own person, to preserve and maintain.

It will often happen that practitioners, unless they have confidence in the honourable feeling, or the understood etiquette or usage which ought to be observed with respect to each other, will be brought into collisions, anything but agreeable. These would be entirely obviated were each to appreciate, correctly, the others position. The right that rests with the public to seek advice from whom they please, and change their medical adviser as they like, is clear enough, and not to be found fault with; their right to indulge their whims or caprices, or to act upon what may appear to be to them good and sufficient grounds, as the case may actually be, is undeniable, and may not be questioned. But far otherwise should it be with the practitioner. His duty towards his brother practitioner demands from him caution in the reception of patients under such circumstances, a caution emanating from a right appreciation of professional honour. He who possesses a high sense of professional honour himself, will be the last to violate any of the rules of professional etiquette. The two are inseparable, and are engendered the one by the other. In the latter there is no coquettishness; it is a sort of eleventh command,