

tion with the *modus operandi* of the mischief to which we point, it may be permissible to urge that the subject is one to which attention may be usefully directed. The weakly, and those who are not unlikely to have hearts readily overburdened, and blood-vessels easily stretched beyond recovery, or even ruptured, should be warned quite as earnestly against suddenly assuming, or too long retaining, postures which do—however slightly and partially—impede the return of blood through the veins. We know how prolonged sitting may cause the veins of the legs to become distended, and either give way or permit the extravasation of their contents. When this sort of thing happens, even though in comparatively trifling degree, in the case of vessels directly connected with such delicate organs as the eye, the ear, and the brain, it is easy to see that the results may be very serious in their character; and, probably; few postures commonly taken up by persons who lead somewhat sedentary lives are so prone to do mischief unnoticed as that of 'leaning forward' as at work at a table which is not sufficiently high to insure the head being so raised that the veins of the neck may not be in any way compressed or the return of blood from the head embarrassed or delayed. We see reason to believe that if this apparently small matter were more generally understood, there would be fewer head and heart troubles, and we will go so far as to say that some lives now lost would be saved."

AN UNHAPPY MISTAKE.

The *Dublin Medical Press* of August 18th says: An occurrence is reported from Paris as deplorable in its way as any of which we have heard of late. Two children were sent to a hospital suffering from variola, both of whom were called Georges. For obvious reasons the parents were forbidden to see them pending treatment and convalescence. One of the children died soon after admission, and the decease having been duly notified to the parents, the interment was proceeded with. After the lapse of some weeks the parents of the survivor were informed that they could fetch their child, but on a messenger being dispatched for this purpose, the identity was disputed, and after some delay it was discovered that the bed-cards had, by some mishap, been changed, and that the child really belonged to the other parents who had

been informed that their infant was dead. It is needless to dwell upon the gravity of such a mistake, which could not fail to have caused great and needless pain to both parents. It is greatly to the credit of the hospital administration that this is really the first time that such a case has presented itself, for the system lays itself open to such errors. It has been suggested that in view of the disfigurement caused by diseases such as variola, it would be eminently desirable to provide each patient with a bracelet duly numbered by means of which the identity might be assured. An unworthy attempt has been made to throw the discredit of this regrettable accident on the institution of lay nurses, but it is evidently the fault of the system rather than that of individuals.

WASHING OUT THE STOMACH.

This operation, such a novelty a few years ago, is coming quite in vogue in the treatment of certain forms of dyspepsia. The following is the way in which it is carried out: A soft red rubber tube is passed gently down into the stomach, quite to the pylorus; with this tube is connected about a yard of flexible tubing and a glass funnel, which is held on a level with the patient's breast. Tepid water is poured slowly into the funnel until a sensation of fulness is experienced. The funnel is then lowered to the level of the waist, and the fluid allowed to siphon out. The process is repeated until the water returns quite clear.

LITERARY NOTE.

An unusually important work is announced by Cassell & Company. It is "Martin Luther; The Man and His Work," by Peter Bayne, LL. D. Dr. Bayne's sympathy is as great as his literary skill. The men and women of whom he writes are alive. The reader will not only be made acquainted with the facts of Luther's life, but he will follow the events of his career with the vivid realization of a spectator of a powerful drama. One who has seen the early pages, says of this remarkable work that: "it is undoubtedly one of the most comprehensive and accurate personal histories of that great promoter of the general democratic movement of modern times, and also a capital record of the notable chapter in spiritual evolution."