

(Chicago *Medical Journal and Examiner*, Oct., 1877) extols the virtues of colocynth in allaying the pain caused by excessive peristaltic action of the intestines; he says it excels opium itself. Enough tincture of colocynth is added to a glassful of water to impart a slightly bitter taste; of this, teaspoonful doses are to be given every few minutes; speedy relief from violent griping is afforded.

ATROPIA POISONING.—J. C. Mackenzie, M.D. (*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, February, 1878), reports a case of poisoning by sulphate of atropia where two grains had been taken through mistake, followed by grave symptoms and finally by coma, but terminating in recovery. The treatment resorted to was morphia hypodermically, hot water alternated by ice, and the Faradic current.

The minimum fatal dose of atropia is not determined, but cases have died from an amount as small as one-seventh of a grain, while some persons have lived after much larger than two-grain doses have been swallowed.

A REMARKABLE CASE OF MORPHINE TOLERANCE BY AN INFANT.—James S. Little, M.D. (*American Journal of Obstetrics*, April, 1878), reports the case of a child about eight months old that was suffering from an inflammation of the knee-joint, who had become so very tolerant of opiates from long use that it was able to consume and did actually take two fluid ounces of a solution of morphia containing sixteen grains of morphia to the fluid ounce in twenty-four hours, and for nearly a month the average was an ounce each day.

PLATINUM PLATING.—Professor Böttger announces that a concentrated boiling solution of neutral sodium citrate will dissolve large quantities of freshly-precipitated ammonio-platinic chloride. This solution decomposed by a couple of Bunsen's cells will deposit "a handsome, lustrous, perfectly homogeneous, and very tenacious coat of the purest platinum" on articles suitably prepared. The ammonio-chloride is the only platinum compound which can be used for plating, and its slight solubility has hitherto made it impossible to obtain a satisfactory coating of the metal by electro-deposition.

MEDICAL SCRAPS.—"Well, Mrs. Grumblyn, what's the matter with your grandson?" "Why, Doctor, his throat's very bad. Mr. Parsons, the druggist, says as how there's something wrong with the *borax*; but ye can see for yourself that he have three or four big *ulsters* in his throat, besides which the *jubilee* is much *inflated*."

At the outbreak of the American war, when patriotism was somewhat more abundant than knowledge of anatomy, the question was put to a candidate for surgeon's position in a Cincinnati regiment, "What is Scarpa's triangle?" To which he replied: "What is the use of asking

a man fool's questions like that, when his country's flag is trailing in the dust?"

A FRENCH DOCTOR advertised a cosmetic—"the balm of a thousand flowers." It finally got him into court, charged with swindling the purchaser, because it would be impossible to collect and combine the odour of "one thousand flowers." But the witty Frenchman, with a ready smile, put them down with the reply "Honey,"—which was one of the ingredients in the "balm."

GEO. S. PEDUZZI, a prominent Brooklyn druggist, recently made a successful balloon ascension from the Capitoline grounds. Professor Peduzzi has an idea that the air may be successfully navigated. The New York *Telegram* thinks that "it would be a good thing if the majority of the druggists would follow the Brooklyn gentleman's example and go to ballooning. The sick people would miss that opportunity they now enjoy of getting arsenic for magnesia or laudanum for paregoric."

"TO PUPILS IN ELOCUTION."—These lines, by Mr. Charles A. Prince of Boston, originally appeared in the *Harvard Advocate*:

The human lungs reverberate sometimes with great velocity

When windy individuals indulge in much verbosity,
They have to twirl the glottis sixty thousand times a minute,

And push and punch the diaphragm as though the deuce were in it.

CHORUS—

The pharynx now goes up;

The larynx, with a slam,

Ejects a note

From out the throat

Pushed by the diaphragm.

—*Scribner's Monthly*.

THE DRUG MARKET.

Since our last issue there is no marked change to report. A fair amount of business is doing, and prices are without particular alteration.

Camphor.—As usual at this season of the year, there is a pretty active demand for this article, and the stock in New York having run short the price of American camphor advanced a few cents in the course of the month. The arrival of some expected cargoes of crude had the effect of reducing it, however. In London the stock of crude is unusually large, 11,446 packages, 3,577 at same date in 1878; 7,118 in 1877; 6,123 in 1876; 9,646 in 1875.

Opium.—Is very firm, maintaining the recent slight advance, with a corresponding advance in morphia. Stock of *Opium* in London 970 cases against 1,801 cases same date 1878.

Cardamom Seeds.—Are higher than they have been for years, and likely to remain high. Stock in London 279 packages, same date 1878, 407 cases.

Ipecac Root.—Continues firm, and the stock in New York being almost entirely held by one house there is little prospect of a decline. Stock in London 194 ceroons, same date 1878, 217 ceroons.

Sulphate of Quinine, and bark alkaloid generally, remain high. The high price of sulphate of quinine has developed an active demand for sulphate of cinchonidine, the therapeutic efficiency of which is pronounced to be almost identical with that of quinine, while it is less than half the price.

Iodine and its preparations continue high, without any immediate prospect of a decline, as the manufacturers who recently formed a combination regarding advance continue harmonious in their views.