

HOME-MADE KOUMISS, OR METAMORPHIC MILK.—Mr. Power, Medical Officer of H. M. Prison, Portsmouth, has made a series of experiments in the fermentation of milk which appear to us well worthy of attention, since they may have for effect the placing of this valuable product within the reach of everybody. After trying the action of various ferments with little success, it occurred to him that milk contains in itself the elements of fermentation (casein and sugar of milk), and that exclusion of the atmosphere and retention of the carbonic acid produced, at a suitable temperature, would fulfil all requirements and yield excellent koumiss. Mr. Power's experiments have, he tells us, proved the correctness of this supposition. Milk fresh from the cow is put into clean soda-water bottles, filled nearly to the top, tightly corked, and the cork secured with cord or wire. It is kept at a temperature of about 70° F., and shaken every day for ten to eighteen days. It is fit to drink in ten days. By keeping it beyond eighteen days the quantity of carbonic acid becomes so considerable that a syphon tap must be used to decant it, otherwise the whole contents of the bottle would escape when it is uncorked. It can be prepared also with milk from which the cream has been removed after standing for twelve hours. In this preparation it is, of course, necessary to take precautions against the explosion of the bottles; endeavours should be made also to secure a tolerably uniform temperature of about 70°, and some discretion must be used as to the length of time the milk is allowed to ferment.

There are probably several reasons for the palpable defects in our clinical and other teaching in metropolitan schools. Some we have already indicated frequently, and with quite unmistakable plainness. They are the tendency to regard hospital office and school lectureships as the heritage of the pupils of the particular school, and to treat them as a sort of succession which are to be the rewards of young men of moderate income, good staying power, and general utility, willing to take whatever comes first in turn, and as ready to lecture on botany as to teach medical jurisprudence,

treating comparative anatomy as an introduction to materia medica, or a supplement to patient practice, and the whole as stepping stones to practice, to be leaped over with much speed and lightness of foot as possible until the opposite bank is gained; and the hospital lectureship and clinical teaching all deserted together; the successful man turns his back on the student as early in life as possible, and the happy day is reached on which the medical world is proudly informed that "owing to the increasing claims of private practice," the happy incumbent withdraws his ripest knowledge and most matured skill from the sphere of medical education. This is so in any other country in the world with which we are acquainted. The Nélatons, Trousseaus, Rokitanskys, and Langenbecks feel clinical teaching to be their proudest and their noblest occupation, their most delightful and fruitful duty; they never desert it; and so with the Henles, the Du Bois-Reymonds, the Claude Bernards, the Sappeys, the anatomical and physiological teachers of the great foreign schools. How strangely would the theory be regarded abroad, that such scientific lectureships should be the changeable pursuits of a life devoted really to medical practice, and aiming at medical success and popularity.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

Births, Marriages, and Deaths

BIRTHS.

On June 4th, the wife of Dr. McAlpine, of a son.
On Sunday, May 23rd, the wife of Dr. R. B. N. of a daughter.

At Aultsville, on June 13th, the wife of E. Ault, M.D., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At Towle, on June 16th, Dr. William Burt, of P. to Janet MacHoull, eldest daughter of David Ball hall.

On June 16th, Ross Mackenzie, to Lizzie, eldest daughter of the late F. L. Lizars, M.D.

DEATHS.

At Parkdale, on June 8th, Charlotte Arnold, of Dr. Playter.