

produces a decomposition that cannot be artificially re-arranged, without much expense, and a consequent loss of anodyne and hypnotic power. Hence the peculiar adaptability of this new preparation to all the cases where the calumative alkaloids are applicable. In comparing the relative value of Dr. Squibb's liquor opii compositis and Scapnia, he gives Scapnia the preference, because it diffuses its sedative influence over the whole nervous system, instead of being concentrated on the brain. He considers that Scapnia is just the medicine required by the profession, which, having all the good effects of opium, does away with many objections to its use, being, in fact, more convenient for every form of exhibition. One grain of Scapnia is equivalent to half a grain of extract, or one-third of a grain of morphia.

RENEWAL OF PRESCRIPTIONS.

EAST RIVER MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

STATED MEETING, Nov. 3, 1868.

DR. SHRADY, President, in the Chair.

For a year or more the subject of Renewal of Prescriptions has engaged the attention of physicians in some of the large cities throughout the United States. The *Medical Record*, one of the leading Medical Journals in New York, (and to whose columns we are often indebted, as our readers will notice), has taken an active part in the discussion and dissemination of the views of Physicians upon the subject. We take the following from its columns, and think that it represents the matter, as it at present stands, more completely than anything we can say upon the subject:—

"On motion of Dr. Wm. Newman, Dr. John Shrady, the President-elect, was conducted to the chair, and after an appropriate address by the President, was duly installed. Dr. Shrady, after a brief address, entered upon the duties of his office, appointed the various committees, etc. The official reports were then read.

UNAUTHORIZED REPETITION OF PRESCRIPTIONS.

The subject of the communication from the American Pharmaceutical Association, relating to the repetition of prescriptions, was then taken up for discussion.

Dr. Morse presented the following resolution:

Whereas, The American Pharmaceutical Association acknowledges that the indiscriminate renewal of prescriptions is an abuse which should be discouraged, and

Whereas, All renewals by the apothecary without the authority of the physician must necessarily be indiscriminate, since he never sees the patient nor knows the character of the disease, and

Whereas, The American Pharmaceutical Association, after acknowledging that the renewal of pre-

scriptions is unjust both to the physician and patient, declares that it is not within its province to prevent such renewals, therefore

Resolved, That the State Medical Society be requested to ask the next Legislature to pass an act making it a misdemeanor to renew or use a prescription without the authority of the prescribing physician.

Dr. Abbott thought the claims of the Pharmaceutical Association preposterous; had never before heard of such a claim, and hoped the Association would learn that this very important question would not remain a dead letter, but that the resolution would be strictly enforced.

Dr. Thoms approved very highly of the resolution of Dr. Morse, and came to the conclusion that as the principal Medical Societies had endorsed the action of the East River Medical Association on this subject, and had recommended the original resolution to the State Medical Society for its action, he hoped the resolution of Dr. Morse would receive the same attention.

Dr. O'Sullivan remarked that any claims the druggists may assume to have in the matter, were most effectually disposed of by themselves, for according to their own resolutions, they have not met or refuted a single point advanced by the East River Medical Association; instead of which it would seem as if the Pharmaceutical Association arrogated to themselves the power of deciding important points in a manner that seemed to him partial and unsatisfactory. Their assertion that they possess the right of property in a prescription once dispensed is contrary to common sense, they being simply the compounders of medicine ordered by the physician, and are the *custodians* only of the prescription for the time being, subject of course to the order of the physician according to the terms of the contract between him and his patient; the rights of the druggist, so far as can be ascertained by legal investigation, extend no further than the compounding of the medicine, and the temporary custody of the prescription.

The doctor denounced as illogical the claims of the pharmacist to the right of property in the prescription and to its renewal, and asked, "Who are the judges of the indications as to the propriety of the repetition of the prescriptions? Certainly it is not the patient or his non-medical friends; neither is it the druggist, who perhaps does not even know for what purpose the medicine is intended. Yet he claims to be the judge in the matter, else, why should he renew the prescription without the authority of the prescribing physician? If in him lies the right to decide this important question, it would hardly be necessary for the physician to call in a brother practitioner in consultation, should he deem a change of remedies necessary, since he has only to send to any neighboring druggist and ask his opinion."

The resolution was then adopted unanimously and referred to a special committee.

VACCINE.—Physicians requiring Vaccine can obtain it by forwarding one dollar to the Editor Box No. 679.