

Bread-Making.

When meat is soaked a long time in water, it loses its nutritive salts—the phosphates; and when corn is ground into flour, it loses its bran, which contains an amount of phosphates of lime and magnesia nearly three times larger than does wheat-flour. The famine in East Prussia, about eighteen months ago, led Baron Liebig to investigate the question of bread-making, the results of which he has published. We are indebted to a recent number of the *Chemists' and Druggists' Advocate* for the facts. In Baron Liebig's opinion, the trade of the baker is the only one which has not been touched by progress in the course of a thousand years. We eat to-day the leavened bread mentioned in the Bible, and described by Pliny, the flour being different, but, from a physiological point of view, not better. We have ourselves long been of opinion that a vast saving would be effected if families would buy corn instead of flour, and grind it for themselves in a mill; and we believe that an attempt will soon be made to introduce a machine for the purpose. The simplest way of obtaining the full value of wheat is simply to grind the corn and bake it; but neither the persuasions of chemists nor the considerations of economy are capable of making people eat what they do not like—and they do not like brown or black bread. The nutritive value of flour is said to be at least 12 or 15 per cent. less than that of corn; but as people object to the presence of the bran, an attempt as been made to restore the nutritive value of corn by adding the phosphates simply to the flour.

A bread powder has been made by Professor Horsford, of Cambridge, North America, which, according to Liebig, makes a first-class bread of agreeable taste. This bread powder consists of two preparations; the one contains the phosphates, the other bicarbonate of soda. These are mixed with the flour, water is added to make the dough, and the loaves are baked. The carbonic acid is displaced by the phosphoric during the process, the bubbles of which make the bread porous. The two chief advantages are that the bran still contains the phosphates of the corn, and no loss of flour takes place by fermentation caused by the use of leaven or yeast.—*Lancet*.

Acupressure at the New York Hospital.

Since the first of December acupressure has been employed at this hospital, in two amputations at the shoulder-joint, in two of the thigh, and in one at the knee-joint, with complete prevention of hemorrhage in every case. All the cases but one, which died of pyæmia, either have recovered or are in a fair way to do so.

The Solubility of False Diphtheritic Membranes.

A short review of the work of MM. Brichestau and Adrain on this subject is contained in the *Journal de Chimie et de Pharmacie* for May. The following experiment is of interest. "A tracheal false membrane, weighing about twenty centigrammes, thick, resistant, and representing a square centimetre of surface, was placed in a tub containing about five grammes of water. To this were

added about two drops of lactic acid; the solution was then agitated. In two minutes the membrane began to disintegrate, and gave signs of dissolution. A few more drops of the acid brought about the complete solution of the membrane. A more complete result was obtained by using lime water, so as to form lactate of lime. Solutions of potash and soda acted much less powerfully. Bromine water, chlorate of potassa, and common salt, were all found less active in promoting solution of the membrane."

The solution of lactic acid is therefore recommended as the best topical application to the membranes of diphtheria.—*The Practitioner*.

Supervision versus Cure.

A droll defence to an action for the recovery of medical charges has lately been set up. A Major Beauclerc (of what corps did not appear) brought a sick child to Werthing, and engaged Dr. Goldsmith to attend professionally. Dr. Goldsmith did attend for two months, and the child recovered. At the beginning of the year Major Beauclerc wrote the following letter:—

"2, Bath-place, 3rd Jan. 1869.

"DEAR SIR,—Christmas having passed, which is the period when we make up our obligations, and as my dear child no longer requires much medical watching over, unless some relapse should occur, when we can again ask your attendance, perhaps you will let me know what I am indebted to you for your kindness, hoping at the same time that you will take the privilege of a friend to look in and have a chat with the little one whenever you are passing our door and have spare time on your hand, as Georgie says you certainly are one of the nicest doctors who has attended her.

"Yours truly obliged,

"G. BEAUCLERC.

"To Dr. Goldsmith."

Upon receipt of this, Dr. Goldsmith sent in a charge of £4 9s.; of which £3 appeared to be for twelve visits, and the rest for bottles of physic. An angry correspondence ensued; and, finally, the case was tried in the County Court at Werthing on the 8th inst. Major Beauclerc was his own lawyer, and, under the circumstances, seems not to have been an exceptional client. He first objected to pay for the visits on the ground that he had intended to write and stop them, and then on the further ground that the plaintiff had on one occasion wished Mrs. Beauclerc the compliments of the season. But the strong point of the defendant was, that he had only required from the Doctor a "general supervision" of the patient, and had not wished for his opinion.—"It seems exceedingly hard," said the gallant Major, "that I should ask for supervision, and then have to pay for cure. I never asked him to cure my child." Upon this, the Judge very sensibly remarked—"It is nonsense to talk in this way. You are charged for medicine and attendance. No medical man can be compelled to cure a patient. I think the charges are reasonable, and I find a verdict for the plaintiff."

Our readers will observe that the "great physic question" cropped up in this case, as in so many others that are disputed; and will feel, we are sure, that it would be better if the element of discord