

**Blistering in Acute Rheumatism.**

In St. Vincent's Hospital, London, Dr. Mapother recently exhibited to his class several cases of acute rheumatism which he had treated mainly by means of the blistering plan. He advocates this method of treatment very strongly, and has found it to afford much more favorable results than any other which he has tried. He stated that in some cases the patients expressed themselves relieved of the acute pain before there is time for any serum to be poured out; and this fact, if true, would, he thinks, argue that the blisters act as counter-irritants to the diseased structures, and produce relief in that way.—*Medical Record.*

**Chorea Cured by Ether-spray applied to the Spine.**

M. Mazade records (Lyon Medical, 4 Juillet) an interesting case in which severe chorea was effectually treated in the above manner. The patient was a young man aged eighteen; the disease had lasted many months, and after a brief interruption (during an attack of varicella) had returned with increased violence. Fifty grammes (14 drachms) of ether were applied, in spray, along the whole length of the spine with a Richardson's apparatus; the skin was slightly reddened, but not rendered anæsthetic. The next morning the patient announced that he felt much better, although the external symptoms were not materially changed. The ether douche was administered three times more, and a remarkable improvement was then observed; the treatment was therefore continued, and at the end of about eight days the patient could write legibly, whereas the affection of the hands had been so severe as to entirely prevent even his feeding himself. He was so well as to be about to leave the hospital, about three weeks after the commencement of the ether treatment, when he was attacked with typhoid fever. The latter affection proved slight, and was not followed by any return of the choreic symptoms.—*Practitioner.*

**Fatal Result of Consulting a Pretender.**

In New York, Cornelius Kailhor, suffering with fever and ague, was advised to call upon Mrs. Margaret Monaghan, who professed to cure that, among other diseases.

She gave him a mixture consisting of one pint of ale and the contents of a paper of ten cent tobacco. He vomited violently, when some warm water was given, followed by about one-half of the former dose. In a short time the patient died.

Result:—A post mortem examination by Drs. Shine and Cushman, who very naturally found the stomach highly inflamed and congested, evidently caused by some irritant poison. There was in the stomach and intestines a quantity of dark-colored fluid, which smelled strongly of tobacco. In their opinion death was caused by syncope, resulting from exhaustion, consequent upon excessive vomiting, produced by a poisonous dose of tobacco. The case was adjourned by Coroner Flynn, who transmitted the testimony taken to the Board of Health for their action. Mrs. Monaghan was released on \$1,000 bail to await the result of the investigation.

Human life seems to be held at a low valuation in New York!—*Med. & Surg. Rep.*

**Turpentine in Uterine Hemorrhage.**

Mr. Bradley, of Martley, near Worcester; a few years since, published some very valuable records of the utility of turpentine in hemorrhages of all kinds. As a restorative in certain cases of prostration, especially such as occasionally arise during the puerperal state, it is no less serviceable. Sometimes after a severe labour, accompanied or not with hemorrhage, great debility will ensue about the third day, characterised by a rapid pulse, tympanitic abdomen, and other symptoms not connected with peritoneal or other fever, yet threatening the advent of a typhoid condition. Here turpentine, both as an injection and by the mouth, is invaluable. Mr. Yarroway, of Faversham, records (British Med. Journ., July 10, 1869) a case of this character occurring in a primipara on the third day after labour. One ounce of turpentine, diffused in mucilage, was injected as high as possible into the rectum; the patient had been previously insensible, with cold and sweating skin, and commencing shrivelling of the surface, but in four or five minutes after the turpentine injection the respiration became freer, she soon opened her eyes, deglutition became possible; after which nourishment was administered with the best effects.—*News and Library.*

**Trichina.**

At the meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Sciences in Salem, Prof. Edwards, of Montreal, read a paper upon the trichina in pork, of which we have heard so much of late years. After the conclusion of this paper, Prof. Agassiz made some remarks, and among other things, he is reported to have said, that he "hoped the appetite of the community would not be disturbed by this scientific discussion, as such worms are present in all meats and even in vegetables, and there is no danger if they are properly cooked."

This statement is very justly criticised by Dr. Snow in the *Providence Journal*. Prof. Agassiz, it is to be hoped, did not make any such loose statement, and it were just as well if he repudiated it.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

**Danger of the Drinking Customs of Society.**

The following is from an authorative source—and it behoves our profession, whose mission is one of benevolence and mercy, to exert its powerful influence against the cause of so much evil:

Dr. Day, Superintendent of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, recently delivered an address before the inmates of that institution, in which he stated that modern drinking families, more than bar-room groggery, are the schools in which the fundamental principles of intemperance are taught. Among other things he said: "it is my firm belief that no family accustomed to daily use of ardent spirits ever failed to plant the seeds of that fearful disease which sooner or later produced a harvest of griefs. In every such family you may find the scroll of the prophet which was written within and without with mourning, lamentation and woes. It is here that the tender digestive organs of children are perverted and predisposed to habits of intemperance. From long observation I am convinced that one or more of the members of every wine-