

foot of fall will represent one volt of pressure in electricity, and the thousand gallons will represent the ampere or the amount of current. We will call that one ampere. Thus we have a thousand gallons of water or one ampere falling one foot or one volt or under one volt of pressure, and the water working the turbine gives one-horse power. If, now, we go a thousand feet high, and take one gallon of water and let it fall on the turbine wheel, we will get the same power as we had before—namely, one-horse power. We have got a thousand times less current or less water, and we will have a thousandth of an ampere in place of one ampere, and we will have a thousand volts in place of one volt, and we will have a fall of water a thousand feet as against one foot. Now the fall of water or the height from which it falls is the pressure or volts in electricity, and the amount of water is the amperes. It will be seen that a thousand gallons a minute falling on a man from a height of only one foot would be no danger to the man, and that if we took one gallon and took it up a thousand feet and let it fall down it would crush him. So it is not the quantity or current of water that does the damage, but it is the velocity or the pressure that produces the effect."

It has been calculated that the electromotive force of a bolt of lightning is about 3,500,000 volts, the current about 14,000,000 amperes, and the time to be about 1-20000 part of a second. In such a bolt there is an energy of 2,450,000,000 watts, or 3,284,182 h. p.—*Scientific American*.

STRYCHNINE IN ALCOHOLISM.—Dr. Pombrak reports the effect of strychnine in four cases of chronic alcoholism and three of dipsomania. The results were excellent in all but one case; the patients ceased drinking, and in one case the improvement has already lasted nine months. He advises the employment of strychnine in inveterate inebriety as well as in dipsomania. He insists on the prolonged continuance of the treatment; its duration should be proportionate to the duration of the disorder. He considers the dose of one milligramme insufficient; in moderate cases two milligrammes daily are required, while in old and inveterate drinkers, double this amount may be used. He ascribes the failures of some physicians to the insufficiency of the dose employed. He claims that the peripheral neuritis common in alcoholic cases sometimes disappears under the influence of strychnine.—*Jour. de Méd. de Paris*.

EMMENAGOGUES AND PREGNANCY.—Dr. L. Atthill finds that, in his own experience, some of the so-called emmenagogues are practically devoid of special action upon the uterus. For many years he has made a practice of administering ergot to patients threatened with abortion, hæmorrhage

being present but uterine action not having been excited. He finds that it checks hæmorrhage without exciting undue uterine contraction, and accordingly he does not hesitate to give it to pregnant women if for any reason it seems to be indicated. He has often administered ergot before labor in cases where there is a predisposition to *post partum* hæmorrhage. In none of these cases has labor set in earlier than was expected, while in two or three cases it has been delayed. From personal experience he believes that iron, quinine and strychnine can be administered to pregnant women in ordinary doses with perfect safety.—*Brit. Med. Journal*.

PACKING THE VAGINA IN PREGNANCY-VOMITING.—The obstinate vomiting in early pregnancy is in many cases due to displacement, acute flexion generally, writes Dr. MacKinnon in the February *Journal of Obstetrics*. In two instances he relieved the displacement by packing the vagina with absorbent cotton, and in both the vomiting ceased almost immediately. These patients were in such a critical condition that the induction of abortion was in contemplation.—*Pacific Med. Jour.*

THE recent announcement that Professor Mosetig, of Vienna, has discovered a cure for cancer, the details of the remedy being kept secret, has induced an Irish poetic genius to write some lines on the secret discoveries of our continental *confrères*, which are published in a Dublin journal. The author in the belief, no doubt, that his sentiments and mine are in unison, has placed the verses at my disposal, but I can only find space for the three following:—

Our lip we can't help curlin'
At the medical prefash;
Sure, there's Doctor Quack, of Berlin,
Always finding something fresh
To prevent mankind from croaking,
And to load himself with fame.
This is not a theme for joking,
But—we get there just the same.

* * * * *
Here's a man has struck a plan, sirs—
So the daily papers say—
To prevent the growth of cancers,
And we only hope he may;
All the things they'll soon be healing
To which one can put a name—
Yet we're haunted by a feeling
That we'll get them just the same.

O confound all foreign "masters"
With a secret to disclose!
We believe in mustard-plasters,
And put tallow on our nose.
Let the savants of Vienna
Spin their narratives so lame—
If we stick to salts and senna
We can get there just the same.

—*Hosp. Gaz.*