

POISONOUS EFFECTS FROM USING NEW EARTHEN WARE.—A somewhat singular, though not unaccountable occurrence took place in the family of a gentleman in one of our neighboring towns, a short time since. It appears there was a large number of the gentleman's family and connections present to partake of a Thanksgiving dinner, numbering in all twenty-three persons. The usual variety served on such occasions covered the banquet board, and the party partook of it with the proper relish. Twenty of this party remained over night, and took breakfast with their host the ensuing morning. A large chicken pie, which had not been touched the day before, was served out to them at this time. In a few hours after, seventeen of them were violently attacked with severe griping pains in the bowels, accompanied with profuse diarrhoea. It appeared, from investigation, that *only those who ate of the pie* were the ones who suffered. The lady of the house having made it herself, and partaken freely of it, suffering alike with the rest, of course removed all suspicion of intentional poisoning.

The query now is, what was there in this pie, or about it, that should produce these effects? The pie was baked in a yellow earthen glazed dish, that never had been used before; and the conclusion necessarily is, that its contents became impregnated with portions of the enamel with which it was lined, and hence the consequences. Now the enamel used by potters varies in composition, according to the purposes for which the ware is intended. They all, we believe, contain more or less lead, cobalt, &c. Often the biscuit, as it is called, is made of clay which contains poisonous matter in various proportions, and if, after the baking, the vessels are imperfectly glazed or protected, bad consequences may arise from using them. All such ware, to be used in cooking, when new, should first be proved, and this is best done by having it greased over with lard or tallow, and then subjected to the heat of an oven. This will generally be found a sure protection. This one instance should serve as a warning to families, and is not without interest to the physician. Had the occurrence taken place during the prevalence of cholera, the sickness might have been taken for it, and with very good reasons, its symptoms and character simulating that disease. We are pleased to state that the parties entirely recovered, the majority of them only suffering five or six hours.

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**PHYSICIANS' FEES.**—There is often much complaint of the exorbitant charges by physicians, for medical attendance. It is insinuated that their fees are not really earned, and therefore should not be paid. As a general rule, with this class of patients, it is useless to parley; a better opinion of the true value of your services will be the result, if you keep quiet.