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P. Bee, N. H.

THE

UNFETTERED CANADIAN.

VOL. I.

DECEMBER, 1850.

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Part 1.--Original Communications.

ULCERATION OF THE PYLORUS AND DUODENUM.

BY DR. T. B. CLAPP.

On the 10th day of Nov., 1850, a Mr. W——, a resident and estimable citizen of the town of York, aged 55, died after an illness of four months, and, by a post mortem examination, held the day following, it was discovered that he died of the disease above mentioned. The general view, history, circumstances, and developments of this case, we propose to treat upon in the following remarks:

In the beginning of August, 1850, I was requested by Dr. B., a neighboring physician, to visit the above named gentleman, who had been in his charge about three weeks, and whose ultimate recovery he considered extremely doubtful. Found him able to sit up and occasionally move about the room. Made a careful and minute investigation of his case. In answer to my enquiry, how he had been handled previous to my visit, I learned the following facts:—That he had been unwell most of the time for two or three years, but not so much as to prevent him from attending to his usual business. That when he was taken more unwell in July, previous, he complained of great distress, fulness, and pressure in the

stomach, of tenderness in the epigastric region. and, to use his own expression, there seemed to be a great load at the pit of his stomach ; occasionally vomited large quantities of bilious matter. Within the period of two weeks after he had been taken ill, a profuse diarrhoea seized him, and with slight modifications lasted about one week. The abatement of the diarrhoea was succeeded by chills and fever of the Tertian type. The chills ceased with the third one, but the fever lingered a much longer period. Such were some of the facts I learned by enquiry. Found his pulse ranging from one hundred to one hundred and ten, full and hard—exhibiting high arterial excitement ; great irritability of the stomach, and some general febrile symptoms. Tongue not furred ; but tongue, mouth and throat of a fiery red appearance.

In an examination of the lungs, I discovered no great difficulty in respiration ; no tenderness, no fixed pain in the region of the lungs ; a slight hacking cough, but expectorating large quantities of tough viscid mucous, with slight dulness on percussion over the inferior lobe of the right lung. Upon pressure over the epigastric region, especially over the Pylorus and Duodenum, there was an involuntary shrinking away from the touch, and complaint of extreme tenderness of the part. Distress in the stomach still continued, and frequently a rejection of food soon after it had been swallowed. No pain or soreness either in the right or left hypochondriac region. Bowels constipated ; action of the kidneys variable.

From the examination, I was led to infer, first, that there existed no organic disease of the liver ; second, that there was a slight inflammation and tuberculosis of the inferior portion of the right lung ; and thirdly, that the main disease had fastened itself upon the stomach, consisting in its character and location, of an inflammation and ulceration of its Pyloric orifice.

From this time till the 1st of Nov. following, I personally knew nothing of the progress of this case. At this time I visited him by his own request, and was then informed by his wife that he had been able to ride occasionally in a carriage up to the 10th of October, at which period his strength began to fail very rapidly. Tremors of the limbs, complete loss of appetite, sinking turns with faintness soon confined him to his room, and for the most of the time to his bed. Made a second investigation. Found all the symptoms aggravated ; lips, tongue and throat literally covered with

a yellow thrush. Bowels obstinately constipated, œdematous swelling of the inferior extremities, and many other symptoms rendering it beyond question in my own mind that he had but few days to live.

Suffice it to say that he died on the 10th of Nov., 1850, and on the day following, by request of his friends and attending physician, I performed a post mortem examination, some of the developments of which I now propose to notice, without minuteness of detail, presuming that they may be somewhat interesting to others as they have been highly instructive to me.—Upon exposing to view the viscera of the chest, no departure from a usually healthy appearance could be discovered in the left lung, but the inferior lobe of the right was tuberculated and slightly inflamed. There had as yet been no softening or purulent discharge from the part—no adhesions to adjoining tissues ; considerable serous effusion in the cavity of the thorax, and deposits of adipose matter upon the exterior surface of the heart. Examination of the liver exhibited no organic lesions of that organ—no appearances of inflammation or congestion ; but examination of the first passages developed complete destruction of the Pylorus, involving a large portion of the Duodenum by ulceration. Besides this, there appeared nothing unusual in the appearance of the stomach after death.

Such are the facts elicited in this case, and as facts I leave them for the candid consideration of abler heads than my own.

There exists yet one point, of which I have not spoken, and which I now propose briefly to notice. Early in the reign of Thompsonian Science, this gentleman became a convert to the faith, and upon himself and his own family, proved his faith by his practice. He believed in a thorough course of lobelia emetics and their usual perquisites under nearly if not quite all circumstances ; and this opinion he had of course a perfect right to enjoy. We may be led to infer from his own statement that he considered in the application of these agents, he had found a "panacea for all ills that flesh is heir to," for he told me a few days before he died, that he had many times risen in the morning, prepared and taken an emetic, and then partaken of a hearty breakfast with the remainder of the family. These facts I have here stated in a spirit of enquiry which may be summed up in these words : Might not the injudicious and frequent use of these agents have operated to destroy the vitality of the stomach, and ultimately to produce the condition in which the Pylorus and Duodenum were found after death ?

With these suggestions, I leave the further investigation of this subject to those who are better able to trace disease in its various causes, symptoms, and effects. In leaving it, I would barely say that I have not spoken of the treatment adopted, for the reason I did not consider it material to the point at issue; but would here aver, that as far as I had an opportunity of knowing, it was according to the most approved teachings of Eclecticism. Though I may be wrong, yet I would venture the opinion that no agent yet known in any school, could have stayed the *Writ de Replevin* Death had issued. and which must be returned.

Greigsville, Jan. 6th, 1851.

DIARRHŒA.

BY J. BURT, M. D.

September 25th, 1850, was called to visit Deacon Z. W——, aged 68 years; of usual good health, except the natural infirmities of age. He was taken with diarrhœa, accompanied with nausea; I prescribed Beach's antibilious (powdered) physic, to be followed with the neutralizing mixture. Evening, found him smart; his physic had operated well, and the mixture had checked the bowels.

26th. He was about, as usual; worked in his garden.

27th. About 9 o'clock I was called; found him in a severe chill, which lasted about two hours, and left some fever, with an uneasy sensation in the right side and likewise in the head. About 3 o'clock, P. M., diarrhœa set in, with nausea at the stomach; gave neutralizing mixture, paregoric, and spearmint tea, with sinapisms to the side, feet and nape of the neck. Evening, nausea continues; applied sinapisms to the region of the stomach.

28th. No better, but worse; discharges of the appearance of beef brine; vomiting occasionally; almost comatose, some delirium, cold feet and hands. I gave diaphoretic powder—4 grs. camphor, 2 grs. opium, $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. geranium maculata, powder, 4 grs. carb. ammonia, 2 grs. capsicum—to be given every

four hours; continued neutralizing mixture, with beef tea. Evening, discharges from the bowels not as often, but increased in quantity; vomiting not as bad; symptoms of congestion of the brain worse; comatose; knows when you speak to him; lies on his back; works his head down.

29th. No better; vomiting worse; diarrhœa much as yesterday; comatose. I lessened the powders; gave 6 grs. of tannin. Evening, symptoms the same, or worse.

30th. Much the same as the preceding evening; friends anxious; wished counsel, and of course I had no objection. Called in a good old Allopathic. He approved my course, but suggested an increase of tannin, and one grain of *calomel* every four hours. I asked what he expected to do with the calomel; he said, change the secretions of the liver. I protested against it, as it was not possible for it to do any good; but he said nothing else would save him, and he did not believe that would, for he did not think he would survive the night. Now observe, the man was to die in twelve hours; still he must not go without a dose of the old panacea, so as to die scientifically.

After he left, I told the friends what the advice was, and I did not approve of it; but his wife, feeling anxious, wished me to give the calomel. So I procured it, and dealt out two doses. He took the first, but immediately vomited it up, and declared he would take no more powders at all. The disease progressed; involuntary discharges succeeded; the system evidently was giving away. I took strong laudanum and saturated it with tannin, and gave half a teaspoonful every four hours; gave brandy and beef tea freely, and applied smart weed to the bowels, which were bloated. Evening, diarrhœa not so bad; vomiting pretty much stopped; urine scanty and high colored; involuntary discharges continued; pulse small and weak.

October 1st. Much the same as yesterday: delirious; somewhat stupid.

2d. No worse, but some symptoms better; diarrhœa less, and at will. I added to the prescription syrup of blackberry brier root, one half wine glass every four hours. Evening, seemed better.

3d. Improved; has had but one stool during the night, and that of a greenish appearance; continued the treatment.

4th. Has rested well; has had two small discharges during the night, of the same greenish hue; he is rather sleepy; gave one-fourth teaspoon-

ful of the laudanum and tannin; continued the syrup, and the brandy and beef tea.

5th. Better; calls for the brandy; continued the syrup, with neutralizing mixture and tannin.

6th. Improving; continued the treatment, except the tannin. From this up to the 14th, he improves, but slowly. On the 14th, got him in a buggy, and he rode some distance. He continued to improve, and is now (November 1st) quite well.

This case may not interest you as much as it did me; but taking his age, and all the symptoms, I am bold to say, as well as all his friends, that it proves the benefit of Eclectic practice. If for the congestion he had been bled, or catharticised, or calomeled, he undoubtedly would have died.

AN ADIPOSE TUMOR OF GREAT SIZE IN THE SCROTUM.

PROF DOLLEY: Knowing as I do, the peculiar interest which you have always manifested for the science of Surgery, and especially for all the modern improvements in our beneficent healing profession, I venture to present to you in this communication an account of a case and operation which must be regarded as of more than ordinary importance, from the rarity of its occurrence.

On Dec. 6th, Mr. P——, aged 75 years, of rather a healthy nervous temperament, about 5ft. 10 inches in height, presented himself before the Med. Class and Faculty of "W. R. Med. College" for some relief of his trouble; which had been 20 years in attaining its present enormous magnitude. He supposed (perhaps from what some ignorant physician may have said to him,) before he came to the College, that the great tumor was caused by a *scrotal* hernia, and hoped to have it reduced into the abdomen! The Prof. of Surgery (Ackley,) and also Prof. J. Delamater examined him, and concluded that it was hydrocele, but were not very positive about their diagnosis, since no *light* could be seen through it; and the size, also, being "more than four times as large as any case of hydrocele they had ever before witnessed." Yet on slightly percussing it

with the ends of the fingers, there could be perceived that peculiar *trembling, fluctuation*, undulatory sensation and motion, by the other hand on the opposite side, which is so diagnostic of fluid tumors under great pressure; and from its long standing, the hardness was supposed to depend on a thickened and partially indurated condition of the tunica vaginalis, a sequence of chronic inflammation of either testes or tunics. Notwithstanding all these plausible symptoms, which had induced to the above named opinion, the old gentleman was advised that probably quite an extensive operation would be necessary; and that there was always more or less danger accompanying it, even when performed on a young and healthy man; and that on one so old, there were reasons to apprehend a less favorable result. But he insisted on something being done, as he regarded life a burden with so pendulous and heavy a mass between and in front of his thighs. It was, indeed, so large as to have entirely obliterated the penis, the *præputium* barely being external, and a curved line bearing to the right marked the *raphe*—presenting a spheroidal figure, of about ten by twelve inches in diameter. Several punctures were made with a grooved needle, without the escape of any fluid. Then the wrong diagnosis was evident. Something beside fluid must be its nature. An operation was decided upon, and *anæsthesia* induced, and the removal soon performed by dissecting up the common integument, and to facilitate the work the mass is divided into two portions, and a part taken away at a time. During the dissection and division, we discovered that the left testicle was so deeply imbedded in the mass as to delay greatly the operation should time be taken to save it, and it was thought best to remove it also, which was done. We found the right side of the septum not to be involved, the whole tumor having developed itself in the left. The necessary vessels were secured, and to enable the wound more readily to be dressed, a great part of the loose integument and dartos muscle of the scrotum were likewise excised—making but a small breach of continuity, considering the magnitude of the incisions.

The tumor, as specified at the top of this article, was of the *fatty* class of tumors; and appeared to have no definite structure or organization, otherwise, than you could discern the fat to have been developed in cells, ovoid or lobulated in form, varying much in consistency, but still more in their size. Its weight was between *fourteen and fifteen pounds!* He was

quite "smart" for the next two days; but on the third he became stupid and in the afternoon comatose, indicating that some difficulty existed in the brain, for which he was thoroughly catharticised, and treated as congestion of so important an organ should be under his circumstances, according to the old rules—it being deemed inadmissible to bleed.

On the fourth day he was somewhat less stupid, but much exhausted. Said he "had been liable to sleepy turns" for some time. The wound all this time appeared healthy. During the night he became comatose; retention of urine, with œdema of the penis took place; and on the fifth day the wound suffered from the low state of the vital energy; it became very fetid, greenish, and nearly gangrenous; and about 9 o'clock on the evening of the 11th inst. he expired.

Post Mortem examination, 17 hours after death. The wound presented about the same green color, and emitted the same putrid odor, with œdema, as on the day previous to his demise. There was some distention of the intestines, by flatus; and following up the direction of the cord on the left side, there had taken place an accumulation of venous blood, which had exuded into the surrounding tissues, and by movements of his body, had become deposited external, but in contact with the peritoneum. There was no inflammation of the membranes. In the bladder was some coagulum, the result of using the catheter. The liver and other abdominal viscera were healthy. In the Thorax, the lungs were pale and flabby in the superior lobes; slight adhesions of the pleura, and the inferior portions of the lungs congested and dark; but, upon the whole, very healthy for so old a man. There was slight ossification of the semilunar valves, as is common in old persons. The brain generally was healthy with deep sulci, and plainly marked convolutions; some fluid in the ventricles, and plainly a hardening and thickening of the arteries—which was supposed to account for the trouble in the sensorial functions.

REMARKS.—From the particulars thus given, you will probably come to the conclusion that the operation hastened death, in his particular case, with the change of valves and arteries, in connection with his age. But a tumor of that size, in that location, is not of common occurrence in this latitude. Seldom, if ever, has it been noticed by surgeons in the United States. Mr. Liston tells of "operating successfully" on one weighing forty-four and a half pounds! Others, however, say that the man died.

I have heard no one censure Prof. Ackley for operating; or say that the operation was not performed with as much skill as is possessed by any living surgeon.

With high regard for your friendship and talents, I hope ever to remain,
Your friend, &c., A. D. SKELLENGER, M. D.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STATE SOCIETY AND CONVENTION.

The meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock, according to appointment, in the College Buildings, by Dr. Wm. W. Hadley. Dr. C. S. TOTMAN was chosen Chairman, pro. tem.; and Dr. DOLLEY, Dr. J. C. JACKSON, Mrs. L. N. FOWLER, as Secretaries.

The minutes of the last meeting being called for, were read by Dr. Jackson, and accepted.

A suggestion was made to unite the State Eclectic Convention and the New York State Society. The Convention consists of all who pay their annual fee, while the Society admits only those who are regularly licensed practitioners. It was thought that if they were merged, Eclectics might meet without exclusion, and unite with freedom of feeling and concert of action, as one great band of brothers, in the cause of Medical Reform; and that the interests of all concerned would be thereby promoted.

After some discussion, the motion was unanimously laid on the table.

Dr. Hadley, Dr. Jackson, and Dr. Teal were chosen as a committee to nominate officers.

Dr. S. M. Davis, Dr. O. Davis and Dr. Dolley were chosen as a committee to report on the order of business of the State Society.

An address was then read by Dr. Reuben.

The committee for electing officers reported the following: Dr. C. S. Totman, President; Dr. O. Davis, Vice President; Dr. L. C. Dolley, Secretary; Dr. E. S. Preston, Treasurer. They were unanimously chosen by the Convention to act during the ensuing year.

Moved and seconded that the *State Society* adjourn to the second Wednesday of January, 1852.

P. M.--The Convention was called to order at 1½ o'clock, when arrangements were made for the afternoon.

Dr. G. H. Preston, Dr. Jackson, and Dr. Kuchler were chosen as committee to report on business for the afternoon.

Dr. E. S. Preston, Dr. Robinson and Dr. Hadley were chosen as committee to nominate officers.

The minutes of the last State Medical Convention were read by the Secretary and accepted by the Convention.

A report was read from Lockport, which was accepted.

Moved and seconded, that all delegates from county societies, and all others interested, be invited to sit with the Convention and take a part in the proceedings.

Dr. Hawley, a Secretary from Yates county, being present, read the minutes of the last meeting held at Rushville, which was well attended.

The Committee on Nominations elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

For President—Dr. G. W. DAVIS, Buffalo.

Vice Presidents—Dr. G. D. Kuchler, Erie Co.;

Dr. W. W. Andrews, Genesee Co.;

Dr. J. R. Bush, Chautauque Co.;

Dr. E. W. Sabin, Monroe Co.;

Dr. Wm. M. Robinson, Seneca Co.;

Dr. G. H. Preston, Yates Co.;

Dr. Ira Kilbourn, Oswego Co.;

Dr. Wm. Elmer, Outario Co.;

Dr. Garfield, Cattaraugus Co.;

Dr. Seth Easton, Wayne Co.;

Dr. L. D. Stone, Cayuga Co.;

Dr. W. Eaton, Orleans Co.;

Dr. L. A. Ward, Steuben Co.;

Dr. J. M. Ward, Alleghany Co.;

Dr. H. Winchester, New York city;

Dr. T. Frank, Owego;

Dr. T. A. Moore, Onondaga co.;

Dr. Russell, Albany;

Dr. J. S. Kuchler, Niagara Co.;

Dr. Chas. Corbin, Washington Co.;

Dr. M. A. Cushing, Warren Co.

Secretary—Dr. C. D. Phelps.

Treasurer—Dr. M. R. Tewksbury.

Dr. Jackson made some very apt and appropriate remarks on the desirableness of a concert of action; he remarked that every thing that was done should be characterized by earnestness. We have a quasi reputation that must be sustained. The interests of Eclectics must be identified. The Medical Journal should be sustained, and not be dependant on the donation of its friends. He thought that the attempt to preserve the technicalities in Medical Science was a severe burlesque; common people should receive light, and in such terms as they can read and understand it. The minds of patients should not be befogged; should not be addressed in barbarous Latin, but in an understandable language. The laws and functions of our being should be so clearly described that all may not be mistaken with reference to them. The strength of the Eclectics is in the people, and the medium to reach the people is the Journal. He said that he belonged to the Hydropathic School, and that its medium was the Hydropathic Journal. The writers of it are men of sound philosophy, but they write clearly, so that the people can understand what they read; and it extends from Maine to Georgia. The Eclectics desire to have the Medical Journal go into families, that all may become interested in it. Let the language be clear, plain, and though scientific, yet understandable.

Dr. Hadley thought that every Eclectic physician would desire to have the people, by whom he is surrounded, acquainted with the laws of life; and if they would only make a little effort to get subscribers for the Journal, it would not only prove a source of benefit to the reader, but would have a reflex influence on the practitioner himself.

Dr. Reuben heartily approved of the proposed changes in the Journal, to make it more like a Family Magazine, but he did not like the idea of disclaiming technical terms altogether. He knew that there was much senseless jargon and pretensions to science in medicine, but on this account we should not throw aside all scientific terms, because then we should have no appropriate terms with which to clothe our ideas. He would have all extraneous terms lopped off, and physicians speak in Anglo Saxon to their patients; yet, in expressing ourselves scientifically, we must have some technicalities, as in all the other departments of knowledge. The following resolutions were then read and accepted:

Resolved, That as reformers in medicine, we do find in the progress of liberal views and the removal of legislative restrictions upon our freedom, which has been realized in the past, sincere cause for congratulation; and

we hold ourselves ready to work unremittingly and unitedly to carry on to its completion the noble work thus begun.

Resolved, That the members of this Convention do heartily approve of, and pledge themselves to co-operate with, to the extent of their opportunities and abilities, in sustaining the high stand taken by the Trustees and Faculty of Central Medical College in reference to length of lecture terms, the facilities for study, and qualification of candidates for graduation.

Resolved, That we approve of the contemplated changes in the New York Eclectic Medical and Surgical Journal, announced in its December number.

Resolved. That we consider the principles maintained and inculcated in Central Medical College to be essentially Eclectic, liberal and progressive; and we consequently deem the same worthy of all consideration, and pledge ourselves to its hearty support.

Resolved, That we cordially invite Mrs. L. N. Fowler to publish the lectures on Obstetrics, delivered by her during the present course in the Central Medical College, and that we recommend them to the consideration of the profession.

Resolved, That the standard of education in our medical institutions, is far below that demanded by the progressive spirit of the age.

Resolved, That as one of the most efficient means of qualifying communities to appreciate the claims, and award to scientific Eclectic physicians the confidence due them, we recommend that the study of physiology and physical education be made, as far as possible, branches of popular instruction.

Resolved, That among the other many reasons why we claim for the Central Medical College the co-operation of all true friends of Reform, is, that it has been the first Medical institution designed for males which has opened to women the opportunity of studying the laws and diseases of the human organism, and the remedies appropriate thereto.

Resolved, That we sincerely sympathize with our Eclectic brethren in Canada, remembering them in their bonds, "as bound with them:" that our own experience in the past prepared us to appreciate the peculiar disadvantages of their position; and while we admire the fortitude and perseverance with which they struggle to break down an unprincipled monopoly, and secure the enjoyment of equal rights with their more favored competitors, we ardently hope the day is not far distant when their highest wishes will be realized, and when proscription and contempt for opinion's sake will be, not only among our Canadian brethren, but throughout the world, a fact found only in the records of history.

Dr. Eaton advocated strenuously that the medical student have a thorough foundation to his knowledge; he should not be contented with superficial attainments, but should have a sound discipline. For himself he

would be glad to have the term time extended to eight months instead of four months. As regarded his own branch, (Chemistry,) he could not give a thorough knowledge of it in four months, and hence had many embarrassments; he could only give principles, and not their applications.

The business being closed, a motion was made for addresses and reports to be read.

Dr. O. Davis read an excellent address on the desirableness of organization and co-operation among the Eclectics.

A report was read by Mrs. L. N. Fowler.

A report was read by Dr. Dolley, on improvement in Surgical Science.

Dr. Reuben read a report on the influence of Electricity in the animal organism.

Dr. Hadley reported on *Materia Medica*, on the improvements made by concentrating medicines.

Dr. S. M. Davis reported on Theory and Practice. He said that the laws of matter were the laws of God; and in curing disease we should not violate the laws that exist. We should assist in perfecting the work of cure, by remedial agents that will not do violence to the conservative laws.

It was moved and seconded that the report of Dr. Elmer be published in the Journal, as time would not allow of its being read at the Convention.

The following delegates were appointed to attend the U. S. National Convention, to be held in Pittsburg in May:

Dr. S. M. Davis, Dr. S. C. Dolley, Dr. Teal of Lockport, Dr. C. S. Tottman, Dr. W. Elmer, Dr. G. W. Davis, Dr. Tilden, Dr. E. S. Preston, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Robinson, Dr. Reuben, Mrs. L. N. Fowler, Miss S. R. Adamson.

A motion was made to adjourn to the 2d Wednesday of January, 1852, to meet in Rochester. The motion was unanimously carried.

L. C. DOLLEY,	}	Secretaries.
J. C. JACKSON,		
MRS. L. N. FOWLER,		

~~It~~ It is ascertained that magnets lose almost their entire power in the vicinity of grave-yards, and electric machines are similarly affected under the same circumstances.

REPORT BY DR. W. ELMER,
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON PHARMACY.

Mr. President and Fellow Reformers :

In presenting the report on Pharmacy, I shall present the subject, with an appeal to you to give it a candid, frank and careful consideration. I do not hope to be successful, without your co-operation; but I rejoice, humble as I may be in ability, unknown to fame, and of little or no consideration among men, that association with your names, in this day's deliberation, will give me at least a fictitious importance, which will recommend what I shall say to a hearing from the reformed brotherhood in medicine. My opinions, although of little intrinsic value, shall excite the minds of my fellow reformers to reflection; and then, after mature consideration, I dare venture the assertion that the position I have this day taken will be maintained in practice, and vindicated at least by a recognition of those principles, which it is the province of history to enforce and consecrate in the affections of mankind.

Regarding the Healing Art of divine origin, and second only to the mission of the Gospel, and God as governing the world by a system—all of his laws working together in harmony, giving the early and the later rain to bring forth and develop the boundless resources of the vegetable kingdom, for our sustenance, protection and enjoyment, for the healing of our diseases and the alleviation of our wants and woes;—regarding the subject of a well-regulated Pharmacy second to no object in medical reform, and indispensable to the complete success of the Eclectic School, I therefore recommend and urge that some method be now adopted for the accomplishment of this important object. The plan that I would present for your consideration and support, is—

First. The establishment of a College of Pharmacy, with the following Faculty, viz: a Professor of General and Pharmaceutic Chemistry, a Prof. of Theoretical and practical Pharmacy, Prof. of *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics.

Second. That a Pharmaceutical Establishment and Dispensing Store are also indispensable, and that every article manufactured or sold be put up bearing the official stamp.

Third. I would also recommend that the Faculty of Pharmacy issue an Eclectic U. S. Dispensatory, in pamphlet form, quarterly, with engravings of plants, pharmaceutical apparatus, &c.,—a work which shall embrace practical pharmacy, chemistry, materia medica and therapeutics.

Among the reasons that might be urged for the adoption of these plans, are, first: We have no fixed means to maintain a uniformity in our formula. Practical and pharmaceutical chemistry has hitherto been too much neglected. The virtues of remedies are often lost or destroyed by a deficient knowledge of their chemical nature; hence the practitioner often fails of success, that under other circumstances would be successful. The necessity and application of a correct chemical knowledge to the preparation of our remedies, so as to render their administration more convenient, efficacious and scientific, must be apparent to every sane mind. If we advert to the history and philosophy of medical science, from the earliest period to the present time, we are presented with this truth:—that the exhibition of the various forms of medicine, is the cause which has divided the medical profession, and produced discord and animosity, which has resulted (so far as the remedies are concerned) in a perfect chaos. It is well known that the noted Paracelsus gained great celebrity and help to his cause in overthrowing Galen, by expunging from the materia medica many articles which were of great bulk, and inconvenient in their administration; and, although he introduced a plan which has entailed misery to an extent beyond computation, yet may we not learn wisdom from this circumstance, and the history of the past, and establish a system which will live and flourish in usefulness, as long as light and knowledge shall increase on the earth.

But the objector may say we have no need of an institution of this kind; every physician can prepare his own remedies; but, alas for us! the law respecting medical preparation and combination is not sufficiently understood to justify a conclusion of this kind. And so far from having at this time a correct system, one on which the people can depend for safe remedies, as well as the profession, we find in this age of light and improvement, in the meridian of the nineteenth century, the medical world in the main, to consist, first, of the Blue Pill fraternity, on the one hand; and on the other, the Sugar Pill system, the man of Roots and Herbs, the old woman with her Plasters and Syrups, the Thomsonian with his Inflata and Steam, the nostrum monger with his universal Panacea, the sorcerer or

conjuror with his magic wand, and the Eclectic in the midst, attempting to select from this confused mass. He may be successful, but we believe his success must depend partly upon a better preparation of remedies.

It may be inferred from this that we wish to break down, or cast a stigma upon the profession of medicine: far from it. We wish to erect the true standard; one which shall gather laurels of glory upon her crown, in the redemption of millions from an untimely grave. It is in vain to hope that Eclecticism will take that dignified position in medical science that its friends anticipate, until it adopts a scientific system of pharmacy. It will do for Indian and root doctors, whose chief fame consists in the darkness that surrounds them, to select their medicines from any source, and to exhibit them in any form; but men of science should exhibit their remedies on the principles of philosophy and true medical science, and then, and not till then, will the Eclectic system take that high and honorable position that will entitle it to the esteem and respect of the learned and honorable of the land.

And now in view of these reasons, and in view of the favorable position Eclecticism presents—in view of the great good that will result to the reformed profession, and the people generally, and the age of improvement, taste and refinement in which we live—does it not become us, as far as just wisdom and prudence directs, to remove the too well-merited censure of bulk and inconvenience in our remedies; and just at this crisis give the crowning test to our system, which will secure its complete and speedy triumph over all others, and elevate it above the confused mass of the medical world.

Respectfully yours,

W. ELMER.

Geneva, January 14th, 1851.

TAR VAPOR IN PERTUSSIS.—This remedy is highly praised in the London Medical Repository. A vessel of any size may be taken to hold the tar. From one aperture, a tube should pass, to be connected with the patient's mouth; the other opening should have a moveable stopper, into which a heated iron poker is introduced, to convert the tar into vapor. The poker should not be red hot, because there is danger of producing an explosion of the carburetted hydrogen gas that is evolved.

END OF THE CANADIAN.

SIR:—Having been informed that the next issue of the “Unfettered Canadian” was to be the last—that its expiration would then take place—I have judged it proper to offer a few remarks upon that event, through the medium of that journal, to the *Eclectic practitioners* and *public of Canada*, hoping they will give such remarks as candid and as favorable a consideration as they in their wisdom may think prudent to do.

A reform in the *practice of medicine* has been and is most ardently desired, by many of the most deserving influential and high-minded portions of the inhabitants of the country. This commendable reform, that has the amelioration of the condition of society, the prevention and lessening of pain and woe for its object; the lamentations of which are not only heard in the miserable hut, from the lowly pallet of straw, surrounded with wretchedness, occupied by the dregs of society, but in the lordly palace, from the bed of down, marked by the fingers of luxury, where all was had that the fancy could invent, or the heart could wish; where an elevated refinement, an exquisite taste are displayed on either hand; where life could be enjoyed to the utmost, if its owner was but acquainted with the laws by which his existence was governed. This reform has been agitated by some of the independent of the class already spoken of, who have been placed in circumstances enabling them to advocate the cause with a zeal becoming its object; but not to the extent the importance of the subject demands, for want of a *concentration of force*, or the *proper organization* of its adherents, to *create a simultaneous action*, when such action might be deemed necessary, for the universal good; and the want of information upon subjects therewith connected, to awaken a sense of its great importance to individuals and to the world, by sustaining this truly benevolent cause.

Many parts of the Province have become highly interested in this reform, and in their unbounded liberality they have advocated it to an *unlimited extent*, but its effects, as yet, have no doubt resulted in the greatest good—for many of the Allopathic physicians have been obliged to abridge their practice on account of the unwillingness on the part of their patients

to submit to their cruel operations, or take their poisonous and loathsome nostrums, palmed off as remedies upon a relying and an unsuspecting public.

In other parts there is a startling sound heard on the ruffled deep, that speaks the commotion afar; all are anxiously waiting its explanation; but the sound is not yet understood; thousands are bowing to the *incendiary practice*, in the simplicity of their natures. Like the worshippers of Juggernaut, they submit to the infernal car and hope; while the wheels, calomel and antimony, antimony and calomel, are crushing out their already half extinguished lives. They view with a calm repose, an elevated faith and a holy hope, the dexterous plunge of the deadly lancet, the application of the barbarous scarificator, cups, leeches and blisters, with the whole paraphernalia of torture, the invention of which is equalled only by the inquisition, in the instruments with which they mutilated heretics.

The question that would seem to arise, is this: How shall this state of things be remedied? My reply is, a JOURNAL; upon that we are to rely to sustain our position before the public. If the cause cannot be sustained after public opinion has been fairly called out upon the subject, I am willing, for one, to let it pass as an idle dream, to be of yesterday, among the things that were. But before we do this, prepare the public mind and let the public decide the matter; they have only to will it, for to have it in its plenitude of power and loveliness. A journal should be immediately commenced, under the direction of some competent person, to call the attention of the public to the subject before the meeting of the ensuing Parliament, to watch the doings of that body in regard to the subject, and to deal with them in a very exemplary manner, indicated by their previous conduct; not forgetting that some of the *professional gentry* composing that body, though they may have been *traitors* to the country, they are never to their own malevolence, stupidity and avarice; but they may find themselves as unsuccessful in the use of steel, in the treatment of disease, or the acquisition of a fortune, as they did in the usurpation of power.

A convention should be formed as soon as possible of practising physicians, to meet and adopt measures for the support of the journal, to enable each number to make its appearance promptly at its specified time. It would no doubt be liberally supported if justice was done to its pages. Why I object to persons belonging to the Convention, who are not physi-

cians, is, because it is a subject they are not familiar with, and they are unwilling to meet except at the time of the Provincial fair, which circumstance has made it ridiculous enough already. The Convention should appoint either from their own body, or from the Faculties of Central Medical, or Cincinnati Eclectic Colleges, a board for the purpose of examining candidates wishing to practice in Canada, subjecting them to the course of study prescribed by the Faculties of those Institutions. A petition should then be presented to both branches of the Legislature, praying for the incorporation of this board with certain rights and privileges therein set forth. This will enable the tolerant of the house to act readily upon the subject, and be a guarantee to the public of the qualifications of those presuming to practice in the reform ranks.

Such, in my humble opinion, is the course and the means whereby we can accomplish the end desired. But if we choose to act, regardless of some available course, or neglect to use efficient means, at this particular juncture, the consequences, however unpleasant, should be borne with patience, as penitence is a useless sigh, where hope must end in despair, and faith be swallowed up in fear.

P. H. C.

Rochester, December, 1850.

INFLUENCE OF SULPHURIC ETHER ON THE CATAMENIA.

[From the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

A few days since, two young married ladies called on me while I was in the act of administering ether by inhalation, previously to extracting a tooth, and requested me to administer some of the same to them. I did so, but not to the full extent of narcotism. A few days subsequently one of them informed me that they both had a flow of the catamenia next day anticipating the usual period more than a week. Another female remarked that the same thing had occurred to her. If this anæsthetic agent has such a powerful influence upon the uterus, which, however, is to be confirmed by observation and repeated experiment, it will prove a valuable remedy in many cases of obstruction of that salutary discharge. I am not aware that this subject has ever engaged the attention of the profession, and I am induced to communicate this for publication in your valuable Journal, if you shall deem it worthy of such notice, more for the purpose of eliciting something from them upon the subject, than from any desire to herald a fancied discovery in therapeutics.

B. B. Sisson.

Westport, October 19th, 1850.

Part 2 -- Selections.

MANGANESE IN ANÆMIC AND OTHER AFFECTIONS.

BY M. HANNON.

Manganese and iron are almost constantly found united in the same minerals, and can be separated with difficulty. Again, iron is not always efficacious in chlorosis, and fails in curing anæmia arising from cancers, from tubercles, from prolonged and abundant suppuration, &c. In these cases, it cannot be the iron that is deficient in the blood, but some other ingredient; and it is probable that iron is united to manganese in the blood; and that cases of anæmia, unsuccessfully treated by iron, might be cured by manganese. M. Hannon first tried the effects of this agent on himself. He took at first a grain of the carbonate of manganese daily, increasing the dose to four grains by the end of the first week, and to eight grains by the end of the second. At the end of a fortnight, he experienced symptoms of plethora; the appetite increased, the pulse became stronger, and the color of the interior of the eyelids was heightened. He then administered manganese to some anæmic patients; some of them experienced nausea for two or three days, after which the medicine was tolerated. In a short time its beneficial effects became manifest in the increase of color, in the fuller and more frequent pulse, in the energetic movements, and general improvement of the functions.

The presence of manganese in the blood was discovered by M. Millon, who presented a memoir on the subject to the Academie des Sciences of Paris. His observations have been confirmed by M. Hannon.

[Several illustrative cases are given. The first mentioned is one of extreme chlorosis, in which the patient was sent into country air, and took iron for some time, without benefit. We are told that]

The patient was then directed to take one of the following pills daily before breakfast, and another before dinner: Extract of cinchona, carbonate of manganese, of each a drachm. Mix and divide into four-grain pills. After she had used these pills for a fortnight, the cheeks and conjunctivæ regained their color, and the swelling of the feet disappeared.—The following pills were then ordered. Sulphate of manganese, carbonate of soda, of each a drachm; fresh charcoal, honey, of each a sufficient quan-

tity to make a mass, to be divided into four-grain pills. A fortnight after the employment of this medicine, the bellows sound had disappeared; the pulsations of the heart were strong and loud; and an energetic impulse was felt on applying the hand. There was no syncope; and the appetite had returned. The dose of the pills was increased; and a month after, menstruation occurred, and the patient became plump, and able to bear much exertion. She digested and slept well—in a word, was cured.

[Another case is that of a young lady affected with phthisis.]

Iron with opium was prescribed; but it increased the cough and brought on obstinate constipation. Syrup of phosphate of manganese was then given, with cod-liver oil; the latter being added rather to prevent the contact of air with the manganese, than from any expectation of its producing good effects. The constipation ceased; and the cough became more bearable, and ceased in a fortnight. The patient then began to recover *embonpoint*. A month after the knuckles assumed a very remarkable brick-red color, which has continued up the present time—a period of nearly a year and a half. This patient took three gros (216 grains) of phosphate of manganese, in doses of three grains daily.

Madame R. was affected with cancer of the uterus. She complained of remittent pain in the hypogastric region, and suffered much while at stool. In the evening she was troubled with severe lancinating pains, which often continued through the night. She was excessively weak, and of a pale yellow hue. She was troubled with palpitation, and a *bruit* was heard in the carotid. The feet frequently swelled. Syrup of the iodide of manganese was given with syrup of horse radish, for several months. The pains did not leave her, but the anæmic appearance completely disappeared. To calm the pains, opium, with extract of hemlock, was prescribed; and the patient became apparently cured.

Mademoiselle M., aged 14, of a scrofulous constitution, had glandular enlargements in the neck, ulceration of the transparent cornea of the left eye, and caries of the first phalangeal bone of the index finger of the right hand. Being the daughter of a peasant, she had lived exclusively on vegetable food; but was ordered to take meat and drink beer. Syrup of the iodide of manganese was given, in doses of a spoonful, two or three times a day. Under the influence of this, and her improved diet, she became less lean; soon after, the cornea regained its transparency, having been washed with a lotion containing gr. ss. of nitrate of silver to an ounce of distilled water. The suppuration of the carious bone ceased, and the finger was cured.

Mr. G. B., aged 38, had been treated with mercury for some years, for constitutional syphilis. The bones were sound; the skin was affected with all kinds of eruptions; the tongue had long been the seat of an obstinate tumor; and there were syphilitic ophthalmia and iritis. Fumigation and iodide of potassium were persevered in for several months, but without effect. Iodide of manganese was then given, with sarsaparilla; and in a month the patient was completely healed. He was directed to continue the use of

the manganese; and as he has not since applied for relief, it is probable that he has had no relapse.

These cases have been selected from a number of similar ones, and show the efficacy of the new remedy proposed. Manganese has in all cases produced a more rapid effect than iron, in cases of simple anæmia. In the forms of anæmia cited, all the cases had resisted iron, and all yielded to manganese. The other cases are respectively of phthisis, cancer, scrofula, and syphilis—all inducing almost irremediable cachexia, and all rapidly alleviated by manganese. The effects of the manganese, as observed in one case (phthisis,) are remarkable. Iron seldom produces a similar result; if it improves the state of the blood, it increases the cough; so much so, that many practitioners abstain from its use in phthisical cases. In all the scrofulous cases, the iodide of manganese, by its salutary and rapid influence, was proved superior to the iodide of potassium. The persistence of the cures obtained by manganese, in comparison with those produced by iron, is very remarkable; no cases of relapse have been observed by M. Hannon. The quantity required to be taken in order to produce the desired result, is far from being so great as that of iron.

[London Journal of Medicine.

TREATMENT OF HYDROCELE.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal :

SIR,—The treatment of hydrocele by the pressure of a truss over the spermatic veins, at the external inguinal ring, as first recommended, in my notice, by Mr. Curling, in the London Lancet for June 15, 1845, and since then approved by several others, does not seem, as yet, to have obtained so general a reception in practice as its merits deserve. The reason of the caution or neglect with which the suggestion has been received, undoubtedly is, the theoretical presumption that such a remedy would inevitably be injurious, by preventing the return of the blood from the spermatic veins. A single trial of the truss in a case of varicocele will remove that presumption. No danger, or inconvenience, or discomfort, will result. The proximate cause of the varicosity and of the suffering that attends it, is the pressure of the superincumbent column of blood, unrelieved and unsupported by healthy vein-valves. The truss, by its pressure, closes the vein, supports this column, and relieves the distended veins below; these then contract of themselves; the blood, sent into them by the spermatic artery, returns through the superficial veins, and the irritation, which results solely from the distending pressure, speedily subsides, and restores the patient to comfort, and, after a few weeks or months, to health, or all the signs of health.

I first used this remedy four years ago. Then, and in several cases in which I have recommended it since, it proved harmless and effectual. If the remote cause of the disease be, as I suppose, a deficiency of the valves, it is, of course, beyond radical remedy. And, accordingly, I find that the complaint, sooner or later, is apt to return, if the truss be dispensed with, and to necessitate a second resort to that remedy. But if it may be said, on this account, that the cure is not radical, it is at least true that the treatment leaves the disease no more than an inconvenience.

The case, the worst, and at the same time the most satisfactory, of all I have treated, came into my hands in January, 1850. The patient, C. R., had himself brought to me, from his residence, twelve miles distant, on his back—a position that, with intermissions of not more than ten minutes, he had maintained for three months, if I remember rightly, and which he continued to maintain, as I will explain, as much longer. He was about 50 years of age, and had suffered from varicocele since early puberty. For several years, so irritable had the parts become, he had been frequently obliged to confine himself, for weeks and months at a time, mainly to the horizontal posture. At such times, as he informed me, the parts affected were inflamed, swollen, tender and unusually painful. As we often see in such cases, the pain had come to be, in a measure, of a neuralgic character. The patient's physical and mental powers were suffering under the constant irritation, and the superinduced hypochondriasis. Bad off as he really was, he thought himself worse, and had as little peace of mind as of body. He had long used a suspensory bag, but of late had found its relief very limited. Other remedies had been tried. He had consulted a good many physicians, and among them two professors of surgery, who, having (very justly) little inclination to recommend the common methods of seeking a radical cure, told him, "if he could not get along otherwise, he had better have the testicle removed." It was, in particular, for my opinion on this point, that he came to see me. I recommended a truss. This was altogether contrary to his theory of the disease. He had read a good deal on the subject, and perhaps was not the easier to manage on that account. I explained my notions to him, and he went away half convinced; consulted his books, and his favorite doctor in the neighborhood where he lived, and came back to me afraid to try it, "for fear the veins would swell up and inflame." This course of proceeding was repeated several times, till at length I gave my views in black and white, fully reasoned out, to all possible contingencies and results. With this memorandum in his pocket, for easy reference, he was able to keep his judgment steady. He got a truss and put it on; and the next time he came to see me, much to my gratification and relief, he came on his legs. In short, he now calls himself well, and insists that I shall "publish his case," or he will do it himself.

A single practical direction in regard to the amount of pressure: it should be quite slight, just enough to close the calibre of the vein. Any easy hernia truss will answer the purpose.

CHAS. C. P. CLARK.

Middlebury, Vt., Dec. 24th, 1850.

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.

[Boston Med. & Surgical Journal.

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.

Other professions have the same difficulties to contend with; but in one respect they have the advantage over us, in being *allowed* to refuse their services unless fully remunerated. We believe that the evil complained of by patients might in a measure be obviated, making it better for them and the physician, too, were the *cash* system, or a *very short credit*, adopted. Many of the disputes and much of the litigation would in this way be avoided. Besides, the physician could *afford* to attend his patient *cheaper*, as there would be no expense for collection or other matters attendant upon the open account business. A physician, who is enthusiastic in his profession, and has a large practice to attend to, cannot spare time to arrange his books and make out bills. There is not one of them in fifty who who pursues anything like a correct system in such matters; nor would their books, in many instances, be held as evidence of indebtedness in any court of law. Now if by common consent the old plan could be entirely abolished, and the physician receive his fee as soon as the service was rendered, as is done in other countries and among dentists here, or at the termination of the case, his charges could be less, and there would be more likelihood of his receiving *compensation*. Practice is lost by allowing too long a credit. At the end of the year, when the bill is presented, there is a want of *recollection* on the part of those who are to pay the bill. They think that neither they nor their families have been sick *much*, or at any rate not enough to employ the doctor to such a large amount. If payment is insisted upon, depend upon it you will be sent for again *when they wish you*.

STATISTICS OF POISONING.—A return has been published relative to the number of poisoning cases tried in the United Kingdom, from 1839 to 1849, inclusive. The number of persons tried for this crime during the above period, at the Central Criminal Court, has been 33, of whom 18 were men and 15 women; 16 were tried for murder, of whom five were convicted, and 17 for attempt, of whom 10 were convicted. In the Home circuit, 8 women were tried for murder by poison, 3 for attempt to murder, and 2 men as accessories before the fact. The number of convictions was three. In the Midland circuit, 11 women were tried for administering poison, of whom four were convicted. The number of men tried was six, all of whom were acquitted. In the Norfolk circuit 22 cases of poisoning were tried, in 12 of which the prisoners were females. The number of convictions was nine. In the Northern circuit the number of males tried for poisoning was 15, and of females five; the number of convictions being 14. In the Oxford circuit 17 cases of poisoning were tried, in nine of which the prisoners were women. The number of convictions was three. In the Western circuit, in 12 out of 22 cases of

poisoning tried, the prisoners were women, and conviction took place in ten. In the county of Durham there have been no trials for poisoning. In the county palatine of Lancaster, out of eight cases, seven were of women, and conviction was obtained in five. In the North Wales and Chester circuit the number of persons tried for poisoning was 16, of whom 11 were women. The number of convictions was five. In the South Wales circuit five prisoners were tried for poisoning, two of whom were women. Conviction was obtained in one case only, in which a man and woman were implicated.

In Scotland, the total number of trials for poisoning, from 1839 to 1849 was 15, in ten of which the prisoners were women; and in seven, convictions were obtained.

In Ireland, 31 women and 25 men were tried for poisoning during the same period, and convictions were obtained in 14 cases. The largest number of cases occurred during the year 1849, the number of cases being 13 (seven men and six women,) the average of the other years being 4.3, in the proportion of 1.8 men to 2.5 women.

[London Medical Gazette.

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ULCERATION OF THE CERVIX UTERI.—Since the appearance of Dr. Bennett's treatise on the ulceration, induration, &c., of the neck of the uterus, it is somewhat surprising *how many cases are found* that exactly correspond with *his diagnosis*. Speculums are now in great demand; and it is only for the patient to have pain or uneasiness in the parts, or to have an ordinary leucorrhœal discharge, than at once she must be submitted to an examination. The practitioner is able readily to observe, through one of these vaginal telescopes, fissures from ulceration, *induration*, and in fine, all that he has been told he would see. The diagnosis becomes perfect, and he must cauterize, in accordance with the rule laid down by the great master of the art. It becomes a question with the disciple, whether to use the solid *stick of lunar caustic*, or the *potassa cum calce*; or it may be that some, who are more heroic than their master, advocate and make use of the *red hot iron itself*. What is the consequence of such treatment, in many of the patients who are submitted to it? *Peritonitis*, with its fearful concomitants, as a general thing follows the abuse of the remedy, and the patient suffers from a malady which can only be relieved by death. The *disease of the doctor* is an unmanageable one, and one that every practitioner dislikes to encounter. We wish to be understood to say, that there may be cases where the treatment recommended by Dr. Bennett would be beneficial; but when the indiscriminate use of such powerful agents is brought to bear upon parts delicately susceptible to injury, we must give our opinion as adverse to the practice.

We have often mentioned, in the pages of the Journal, the disposition that exists for falling into extremes, in the adoption and practice of theories; and it does seem that this new theory of ulceration, induration, &c., of the cervix uteri, was having its votaries to the fullest extent. There can be no doubt that many a cervix uteri is charged upon with the cautery, when as exempt from disease as it was at the birth. More anon.

[Boston Med. & Surgical Jour.

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A PHYSIOLOGICAL PROBLEM.—It has been observed, that persons who have lost a limb, or a part of one, are at times very much troubled with an intolerable *itching*, or sometimes *pain*, in the fingers or toes of the extremity which is lost. A case of this kind lately presented itself to us for advice, which, being a little out of the common course, we have thought proper to give to our readers. A young man had his hand amputated just above the wrist, on account of having it shattered by the bursting of a gun. This happened some two years since, and the deficiency is supplied by a wooden hand. At times, he tells us that he has the most intolerable *itching between these wooden fingers*, in fact insupportable, and, to use his own words, he would give a hundred dollars for the chance to give them a scratching. At other times, he has much pain where the fingers *should be*, and he can only obtain relief by *altering their position*. When free from the pain or itching, he can discover no difference between that hand and the sound one. He can will the fingers of the lost hand to act, and they seem to obey. At times, the *ends* of the fingers are quite numb and cold; being partly flexed, he feels that he has not the power to extend them. There are other phenomena connected with this case, which, with those we have given, would be very difficult to account for on physiological principles.

[Boston Med. & Surgical Jour.

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OBSTACLES TO THE DIFFUSION OF VACCINATION.—Although the poor are now vaccinated gratuitously, and ample means are provided by the Poor-law Board for carrying out the intentions of the legislature, an unaccountable prejudice still exists against vaccination. Some of the objections to it are excuses for negligence; others are based on a sort of fatalism; but others, again, amount to almost criminal neglect. The Registrar for Nottingham states that a woman in his district who had lost a child by disease, assured him that she would rather lose half a dozen children by it, than *fly in the face of Providence in having one vaccinated!*

[London Medical Gazette.

## Part 3.--Editorial.

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### MERCURY—ITS ABUSE, &c.

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We are among that daily increasing multitude who believe that mercury, in any of its preparations, should never be taken into the human stomach as a medicinal agent. For this belief we think we have honest and incontrovertible reasons—reasons which necessity (or, perhaps, the benevolent and independent part of our nature) compels us now and then to lay before some member or members of the Blue Pill Brotherhood, with whom our business brings us in contact. We are happy in saying that we occasionally find those of whom it seems “*quirks and quibbles* have no place in their search after truth.” The influence of independent and well-cultivated minds, we trust, we appreciate as salutary and ennobling, and we are sorry to say that we are poorly deserving the gentlemanly courtesy and honest marks of confidence shown us by *some* who differ from us in medical faith and practice.

In our good-natured polemics, we say plainly and above board that we reject the use of the mercurials. We think we can give substantial reasons for so doing. To show that their operation within the human system is not only extremely uncertain, but sometimes dangerously violent and occasionally fatal; that the mass of those physicians who use them do not understand how or why they produce their action upon the human system, we need only refer to the confessions of the most distinguished Allopathic authors and professors. Ask those who use calomel for an explanation of its *modus operandi*, and nine out of ten can only tell you that its effects depend upon its “*peculiar mode of action*”—or its “*peculiar irritating qualities*”—or its “*peculiar alterative power over the vital functions.*” The U. S. Dispensatory tells us, “of the *modus operandi* of mercury we know nothing, except that it *probably* acts through the medium of the circulation, and that it possesses a *peculiar* alterative power over the vital

functions, which enables it, in many cases, to subvert diseased actions by *substituting its own in their stead.*" Cullen says: "Mercury acts as a stimulus to every sensible and moving fibre of the body. What the peculiar character of the excitement which it produces may be, *it would be in vain to inquire!*" Prof. Cross says, "the older physicians, for example, when they employed mercury, had a particular object in view; they considered it a powerful solvent, and in support of their opinion they appealed to facts, observation and experience. We use the preparation of the same mineral, and that, too, perhaps more frequently than they did, and yet, I ask, what ideas have we of its mode of action? Such only as are vague, contradictory, and often unintelligible!" Does not the employment of agents, under such circumstances, savor strongly of empiricism?

We do not pretend that the employment of mercurial preparations is always and invariably attended with dangerous effects; but we affirm that they often prove *injurious and uncertain* in their operation. It requires no ghost from the grave to prove this, so long as we have the testimony of so many intelligent medical men directly to the point. Mr. Bancroft says: "it appears certain that the good effects of the mercurial treatment have been greatly exaggerated by persons who either were deceived, or were willing to deceive others." Prof. Cross says: "the comparative result of different modes of treatment are certainly opposed to the saturating of the system with mercury." Hunter tells us, "mercury may even produce local diseases, and retard the cure of other diseases!" Prof. Chapman, of Philadelphia, says: "Oh! the lamentable ignorance which dictates the use (as a medicine) of that noxious drug, calomel. It is a disgraceful reproach to the profession of medicine; it is quackery, horrid, unwarrantable and murderous quackery. What merit do physicians flatter themselves they possess by being able to salivate a patient? Cannot the veriest fool in christendom give calomel and salivate? Who is there that can stop the career of calomel when once it has taken the reins in its own hands? He who resigns the fate of his patient to calomel is a vile enemy to the sick; and if he has a tolerable practice, will, in a single season, lay the foundation for a good business for life, for he will ever afterwards have enough to do to stop the mercurial breaches in the constitutions of his dilapidated patients. He has thrown himself in close contact with Death, and will have to fight him at arms' length as long as one of his patients maintains a miserable existence." It is not to be wondered at, that the public are almost universally dissatis-

fied with the use of blue pills and calomel, and afraid of those who use them. Where, we ask, is the candid, unbiased man who will examine this matter and not come to the following conclusions? That the preparations of mercury should not be used as remedial agents—

1st. On account of their uncertainty of action.

2d. On account of their deleterious effects upon the human system when administered, according to the best writers who recommend their use.

3d. Because we have medicines entirely safe in their operation on the human system, and more efficacious in any disease for which mercury is given.

We pity those most sincerely who have imbibed the idea that mercurial preparations are both potent and safe in skillful hands, and that evil results accrue from their use only when abused. The abuse of mercury is constantly used as an offset by its advocates, against the objections of those opposed to its use as a medicine. Those who have their eyes open to the light and spirit of the age should not longer advance such silliness and nonsense. The public mind is eliciting truth on every hand; opinions in medicine, politics, &c., are not longer received for their antiquity, unless the elements of truth are found with them. Dear doctors, you need not hope like the professional aspirants and political demagogues of the past, that you can hold the reins and guide the public mind into a channel to suit your own selfish ends. Do not longer disgrace yourselves and your profession by *abusing* your own professional brethren, and the dearest interests of humanity, by saying that the evil effects of mercurial medicines only arise from their *abuse*. Does not every instance of bad consequence from it take place contrary to the expectations of the administrator? Do you know, in any case, that you can give it with a certainty that it will not produce disastrous consequences? We confidently say you do not. If it is used at all, which is abused the most, the medicine or the dearest interests of humanity and the confidence reposed in you by the sick?

Many boast how *little* calomel they use. We are glad to hear you say that you do not use one-fourth, or perhaps one-tenth, as much as you did a few years since. Physicians, as well as the public, are losing confidence in this Sampson. Why not forsake it? They tell us they know of no other articles that will produce similar healthy actions; know of no article that will act so powerfully as an alterative; so promptly and efficiently upon the liver. Eclectics claim that they have these agents. No one who

has attended an Eclectic College, and is acquainted with our resources, is disposed to deny this assertion. The point is fully settled that we have other and safer agents which will produce all of the salutary effects obtained from the use of mercurial preparations, without their hazard and uncertainty.

We have much more to say upon this subject, but must conclude by asking those who do not know the above assertions to be true, to prove all things and hold fast that which is *best*, that the time may soon come when it will not be said, "*thousands are slaughtered in the quiet sick room.*"

UNFETTERED CANADIAN, }  
December, 1850. }

In the absence of the Editor we assume the Chair, to announce the perilous situation of the "Unfettered Canadian." It is declared by the physician in attendance that it will expire in the month of December, aged nearly two years; hence we shall speak of it as being really dead, and add, universally lamented; though not so much as it would have been had it been blessed with uninterrupted good health. But rather than witness its sufferings, knowing it could not long survive, its exit has been more hoped for than otherwise. In fact it could not be fairly said to have lived much more than half of the time specified, on account of its confinement from indisposition.

The disease was simple debility. The only symptom manifested or complained of to the doctor, nurses, &c., was a sort of "goneitiveness" in the epigastrium of the financial department, which kept it from public observation. It was, while it lived, truly an Unfettered Canadian; but owing to its enfeebled constitution by the ravages of disease, the undesirable attendant of many a great soul, it did not apply the rod to the fools' backs, that attempted to invest others in chains, in a manner proportioned to their crimes. It, therefore, left unpunished a clique of professional desperadoes, who have only the form to claim the name of even humanity; monsters in the shape of men, universally detested for their narrow, contracted souls—especially by the noble of the profession, which they disgrace, and to which they unfortunately belong.

Another class of highly interesting individuals that claimed particular attention, have been passed over unnoticed. We will not name them per-

sonally, as they are all honorable men—the representatives of certain counties in Canada West. In relation to them I need only say, they are those

“That would creep, crimp, be civil,  
And hold the stirrup for the devil;  
If on a journey to his mind,  
Would help him mount and ride behind.”

It is, however, useless to point out what it has or what it has not done; both are sufficiently plain without any dilation upon the subject. But I may be allowed to add, by way of comfort to its friends, that it died calmly, in that faith which characterizes the good, that the spirit of a free people would call it into another, a future existence, by another name, freed from the ills which drove it from this life, enlarged and improved, to meet the station it is intended to occupy. It will in that state advocate *medical toleration*, expose *quackery*, encourage the investigation of *scientific truth*, without any regard to the false pre-conceived notions of any one, glance at the history of medicine, point out the changes or modifications it has been subjected to, and how those who have shone as the brightest star in the profession—such as Harvey, Jenner, and others—have been treated as innovators by the same spirit actuating many of the profession at this present time. The medicine used in the treatment of disease by the old school will be carefully compared with that of the new, and the superiority of the latter made plain to the understanding of the most careless observers. It will show upon physiological principles, that the medicine used by the old school, in the treatment of ninety-nine cases out of every hundred, by the pathological action it establishes, tends to the ultimate destruction of the organism.

Therefore, friends of medical reform, cheer up; let your hearts be glad in the faith of the good time coming; for it has only departed this life for a little season, to appear in another state, in its fulness of power, to exterminate the branch of a profession, the remnant of a dark age, that hangs like an incubus upon the genius of another. Let me encourage you, friends of humanity, by assuring you that one resolute exertion, at this present time will dispel the dark clouds that obscure the sun of science and darken the horizon of medical reform. Remember,

“That bold hearts and honest hands  
Will clear the encumbered way.”

P. H. C