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## INDEX.

Apneumatosi	163
Appointment	172
Books and Publication	172
Brain Surgery in Dublin	168
Cases of Disease Communicated to Human Beings from the Cow	167
Excision of the Astragalus for Caries—Immobility obtained by insertion of a Bore Dowel—recovery	166
Loretta's Operation on the Stomach	165
Manitoba and the Northwest	169
Maternity Hospital	171
Miscellaneous	173
Notes of Diseases among the Indians	173
Personal	172
The Effects of Moderate Drinking on the Human Constitution	161
University of Manitoba	172

### TO ADVERTISERS.

Banff Sanitarium	183
J. Thomson & Co., Undertakers	182
Joseph Parkinson, Manufacturing Chemist	180
Leading Hotels—Leland House; The Queen's	178
"    The Clarendon; Whelan House	179
M. Hughes & Co., Undertakers	180
Medical Publications	Title Page
Martin, Toms & Co.	160
Physician's Visiting List	Title Page
Provincial Government Manitoba	183
Radiger and Co—Pure Wines and Spirits	180
Redwood Brewery—E. L. Drewry	180
Security Mutual Benefit Society of N. Y.	182
William Hine, Taxidermist	182
W. Taylor, Dye works	180
West & Co., Aerated waters	180
W. F. White—Buffalo Horns, etc	180
Winnipeg Drug Hall	180

Also Gleanings from London Lancet, British Medical Journal, Chemical News, American Journal of Pharmacy, Canadian Practitioner, Medical Age, etc.

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**Northwest and British Columbia**  
**Lancet.**

*A Monthly Journal of Medicine,  
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 Scientific News.*

WINNIPEG, APRIL, 1888.

**THE EFFECTS OF MODERATE  
 DRINKING ON THE HUMAN  
 CONSTITUTION;**

*Its Influence on Liver, Kidney, Heart and Brain  
 Diseases.*

BY GEORGE HARLEY, M.D., F.R.S.,

Formerly Physician to the University College Hospital,  
 and Professor in University College, London.

Although all persons who indulge in alcoholic stimulants well within the margin of actual drunkenness speak of themselves as "moderate drinkers," there are two special classes of them which bear no resemblance to each other, except in the one solitary circumstance that they never at any time take sufficient to intoxicate themselves. The one class is that which only partakes of stimulants while eating, the other indulges in them between meal-times. To the latter habit is applied in this country the title of "nipping," while in the East it is spoken of as "pegging." And this is the most pernicious of all forms of drinking, from the fact that stimulants taken without at the same time partaking of food, though only imbibed in small quantities at a time, have most deleterious effects on the internal organs. A man who habitually indulges in a single glass of sherry in the forenoon, a brandy-and-soda in the afternoon, and a glass of whiskey-and water in the course of the evening—for reasons presently to be explained—does far more injury to his constitution than one who partakes of a larger quantity of alcoholic stimulants at meal-times. That this is not a mere ideal opinion evolved from the realms of fancy, but one founded upon an indisputable basis, I shall show by reference to the

tables of mortality furnished by the Registrar-General in his Annual Reports. As there, unfortunately, exist no especial tables of mortality from this form of moderate drinking, I have adopted the plan of estimating its effects on health by comparing the death-rates given in the reports of persons who in the course of their vocations are exposed to the temptation of taking small quantities of alcoholic stimulants between meal-times, with the recorded death-rates of those at the same ages, whose trades and modes of life do not so expose them. And the results are, I think, perfectly conclusive. For they not only furnish us with a comparative absolute average death-rate in the two sets of cases, but in no ambiguous language point out both the exact organs of the body that are most affected by nipping, and give us the relative proportions of the deleterious influence it has upon each of them.

First, then, as regards the influence of "nipping" on the liver and kidneys—the two organs of the body not only more immediately affected, but most closely correlated, from the fact that when the one is diseased the other has to perform its functions, as best it can, vicariously. Seeing that the average amount of drunkards is much about the same in all industries, when it is considered on such a vast scale as over the whole nation's strength, I scarcely think anyone will doubt the trustworthiness of the results as revealed in the subjoined tables.

Men exposed to the temptations of "nipping."	Liver diseases.	Urinary diseases.
Commercial travellers.....	61	44
Brewers.....	96	55
Inkeepers, publicans, vintners, bar-men and waiters.....	240	83

The comparative death-rates of men of the same age engaged in other industries, not exposed to the temptation of "nipping," are, again, as follows:

Death-rate of men not exposed to the temptations of "nipping"	Liver diseases.	Urinary diseases.
Gardeners and nurserymen.....	18	39
Printers.....	28	30
Farmers and graziers.....	41	31
Drapers and warehousemen.....	35	37

As an addendum to these most telling statistics, I think I cannot do better than quote what Paer says regarding the probabilities of life in persons exposed to the

temptations of "nipping" compared with that of those not liable to be so tempted. The following is extracted from his table of Prussian statistics, and I arrange them for the sake of easy comparison in two parallel columns, showing the probable duration of life calculated at different ages:

Age.	PROBABLE DURATION OF THE LIFE OF MEN	
	In the liquor trade.	Not in the liquor trade.
25.....	26.23	32.03
35.....	20.01	25.02
45.....	13.19	19.62
55.....	11.16	14.45
65.....	9.94	0.72

This, as is seen, is an equally instructive table.

To return for a moment to the part played by the so called moderate use of alcoholic stimulants in the production of fatal forms of liver disease. As it is, I think, impossible that we, as medical men, can know too much regarding the probable deleterious effects of mere "nipping." I hear subjoin an extract from the Registrar-General's tables of the comparative mortality from liver diseases in different industries, between the ages of twenty-five and sixty-five, in the years 1880-1-2, which exhibits the matter in a stronger light than any words of mine can possibly do:—

Bookbinders.....	3	Butchers.....	21
Booksellers.....	4	Fishermen.....	22
Hatters.....	9	Brewers.....	42
Tobaccoists.....	10	Innkeepers, publicans,	
Druggists and printers.....	18	vintners, waiters and	
Gardeners and miners.....	19	barmen.....	197

The result here shown is so startling that the Registrar-General not inappropriately designates it as "appalling," seeing that the proportion of deaths from liver diseases is in reality six times greater among men exposed to the temptations of "nipping" than in that of all the other industries combined. The actual figures being: for brewers, 1361; for vintners and other salesmen of wines, spirits and beers, 1521; and for waiters and barmen (those most exposed to temptation), no less than 2205. Whereas, for maltsters, who are only concerned with the materials from which intoxicants are manufactured, and not with the intoxicating liquids themselves, the death-rate is only 830. Nothing could be more conclusive of the deleterious effects of so-called moderate drink-

Notwithstanding the familiarity of medical men with the fact that many cases of hepatitis, chronically enlarged liver, and cirrhosis are directly traceable to inebriety, few, I fancy, can have been prepared, without some special acquaintance with the subject, for the information furnished by the foregoing mortality tables of the potent action of alcohol on the liver when only taken in small quantities at a time. And although it may at first sight appear strange that the liver of all the organs of the body should be most potently affected by moderate drinking, I think one can scarcely be surprised at this if he is acquainted with the peculiar action of alcohol introduced into the liver by the portal vein. For it requires, I think, but a small amount of reflection on the part of those acquainted with the mechanism of digestion to understand how alcohol, when taken into the stomach even in small quantities at a time, is a powerful agent in the production of hepatic diseases. Seeing that most of the liquid products of our food are carried directly from the intestines to the liver by the portal vein, it consequently follows that almost every drop of the alcohol, be it small or be it great, taken into the stomach must be directly conveyed by the portal vein to the liver, and compelled to filter through its tissues before it can possibly get into the general circulation and reach any of the other organs of the body. The knowledge of the fact that all the imbibed alcohol is directly conveyed to the liver by the portal circulation not only gives a clue to why alcoholic stimulants are so prone to induce hepatitis, as well as to increase the formation of sugar and aggravate diabetes, but to bring about an attack of the gout. Seeing that the liver is regarded as the main source of both sugar and uric acid—the supposed gout-forming material. In addition to which, the direct conveyance of alcohol to the liver affords us a reasonable explanation of why alcohol taken along with the food is so much less detrimental to the constitution than when it is taken on an empty stomach. Moreover, it is now a well-known fact that the continuous excitement of the liver kept up by habitual "nipping" is far more injurious to its

ing on the human constitution than this; for as all different effects in this world originating in identical causes are but relative, it is readily seen how a lesser proportion of "nipping," though giving rise to lesser results, must nevertheless cause a proportionate amount of cases of disease in the liver and kidneys to those given in the above tables.

functions than an occasional outburst of drunkenness followed by intervals of strict sobriety. It equally accounts for the fact that the liver is not alone the first organ of the body that becomes affected, but is at the same time the one most seriously disordered by moderate drinking.

The effects on the kidneys of moderate drinking are far less apparent than upon the liver; nevertheless they are sufficiently marked to merit attention. The reason why the kidneys suffer so much less from the imbibed alcohol when it is taken in only small quantities at a time is sufficiently obvious, seeing that a large quantity of what passes through the liver never reaches the kidneys at all, from a considerable part of it having been eliminated by the breath during its passage in the blood through the lungs. That intemperance is a fruitful source of Bright's disease has long been known, and the reason of this is not far to seek, seeing that it is the special duty of the kidneys to eliminate alcohol from the general circulation—as they do all other foreign materials. And the more work that is thrown upon an organ, the more prone are its tissues to become degenerated. Not only, however, do we know that the kidneys eliminate the imbibed alcohol (from its being met with in urine), but we likewise know that alcohol, as alcohol, saturates the renal tissue to such an extent that I and others have been able to obtain pure alcohol from the kidneys of persons who have died intoxicated by the simple process of distillation. Besides all this, however, there is a special reason why the kidneys should become diseased in so-called moderate drinking; and that is on account of the circulation being incessantly increased in them, as it is elsewhere, from the accelerated heart's action induced by the repeated imbibition of stimulants in small quantities. For no doubt the diameter of

the renal blood vessels is augmented by their engorgement, and consequently they exert a deleterious pressure on the intervascular tissues, which will interfere with their proper nourishment. While, further, this engorgement of the renal vessels, will render the kidneys more liable to the injurious effects of chills; and chill are, as is well known, the most fruitful cause of kidney disease. This view of the case appears to me to give not only the clue to the reason why Bright's disease is so particularly common among the inebriate, but likewise why transient attacks of albuminuria are so frequently met with in moderate drinkers, among both men and women. Spirit drinking is said to be mainly instrumental in inducing the variety of renal disease named granular kidney, while beer drinking is, on the other hand, thought to be most potent in bringing about fatty degeneration of the renal tissues. Be that as it may, I well know, from a long experience of urinary affections, that even small quantities of alcohol habitually indulged in sometimes bring on most troublesome forms of albuminuria, without their being any well-marked symptoms of the existence of either granular or fatty degeneration of the tissues of the kidneys.—*Lancet*.

## APNEUMATOSIS.

BY A. H. FERGUSON, M.D., C.M.

Professor of Surgery, Manitoba Medical College.

Lobar or lobular collapse of a lung to its quasi-fetal state, very rarely occurs, in adult life; although it not unfrequently results from bronchitis in children, up to the age of about six years.

In this affection all the residual air is expelled from the lobules, bringing them to an atelectic state, and pieces of such lung tissue sink in water, which so markedly distinguishes it from that spontaneous collapse of the lungs, that always occurs when the thorax is opened after death. Apneumatosiis is said to be almost associated with fatal bronchitis of the acute variety. No anatomical change takes place in the parenchyma of the lungs. The air is simply expelled from the lobules. The manner in which it takes place, and the distinction between

this carnification and lobular pneumonia, have only been ascertained within comparatively recent date (1844-49). It was found by experiments on dogs, that any obstruction in the bronchial tubes produced after a time the appearance of apneumatosiis in the distal lobules. The resemblance between these cases and those of children affected with apneumatosiis, due to bronchial secretions obstructing the air passages, was soon recognized. Whether produced from either source the lung tissue would sink in water; be non-crepitant on pressure; have the same physical appearance; and could be inflated to resemble the normal lung.

Bronchitis produces this condition somewhat in the following manner: If the calibre of a tube be nearly filled at one point by a plug of mucus, the effect of inspiration propelling it toward the air cells will be to completely close the tube, when it arrives at a part of the calibre of which is less than that which it originally occupied. The plug of mucus will thus act as a ball-valve, and at every expiration a portion of air will be expelled, which, if inspiration is not replaced, in the end, the lobule to which the bronchus in question leads contains no air at all, and the condition to which it is reduced is one of apneumatosiis (Reynold's System of Medicine vol. 2, page 310). Expiration being much more powerful than inspiration, must also materially aid the expulsion of the air. The form of death that takes place is that of slow asphyxia.

My object is not to produce a resume of what is known of this affection, but to report a case that has proved fatal in an adult.

On the 7th of January last I was called to see the late Dr. A. G. Jackes who was suffering with bronchitis. He attributed his attack to the damp and cold atmosphere, to which he was exposed, while attending service in Holy Trinity Church, on New Year's day. On returning home, a distinct chill was experienced, and within four days the unmistakable symptoms of acute bronchitis manifested themselves. At my first visit the temperature was 103 2-5° Fah.; pulse 112 full and regular; respiration 60 and

labored; cough distressing, but not frequent; expectoration scanty and sputa viscid; the bowels and kidneys doing their work well; the expression anxious; and sleep could only be secured in snatches while sitting in an easy chair, and his head resting on a support in front. Nothing out of usual line of progress in such cases developed for a considerable time, other than the persistent high temperature; the complete inability to sleep or rest in bed; and that the attack was protracted.

Of the antipyretics employed antifebrin was found to be the most efficient, and suitable as much as ten grains every four and six hours were taken to advantage without manifesting the slightest depression of the heart.

The improvement was considerable on the 20th and the night of the 22nd refreshing sleep was had in bed, for the first time since the invasion. His condition on the 23rd was so good as to warrant the opinion, that recovery was undoubted. The temperature was normal and the bronchial tubes were almost clear. The next morning I left the city on a two weeks trip to the south. In four or five days, however, great dyspnoea, sinking sensations, and other serious symptoms developed, then Doctors Higginson and Blanchard were summoned. Evidently renewed bronchial secretions obstructed the tubes of the right lung, and it was feared that apneumatosiis was supervening, which proved to be only too true. The vesicular murmur was lost on the right side except over a narrow strip extending from the nipple to the scapula; there was hyper-resonance on percussion; the temperature normal; general cyanosis very marked; pulse variable; oedema of the feet and legs rapidly coming on; intense restlessness and sleep impossible.

On the 4th of Feb. I returned, to find my patient in the above described, distressing and hopeless state. As was expected, he gradually became worse, till the 8th, when slow suffocation and exhaustion ended the scene, consciousness remaining to the last.

Other than ministering to his comforts and mitigating his sufferings, we could do little. Repeated hypodermic injections of

ether in 30 min. doses, were very grateful and useful in allaying the extreme sense of suffocation, in supporting the heart and in securing a little rest.

At his own special request an autopsy was held. The upper, the lower, and the greater portion of the middle lobe of the right lung occupied an incredible small space, due to the collapse that existed, sections of which sank in water, and that crepitan feel, so striking of lung tissue, containing air was absent, except in a portion of the middle lobe adherent to the chest wall. The bronchi were obstructed by the secretions, and considerable calcareous matter was lodged between them. There was no collapse of the left lung, but the visceral layer of its pleura was so thoroughly attached to the parietal as to render it very difficult to properly examine it. A beautiful cavity, perfectly healed, about the size of a large marble was met with in the apex of this lung which in all probability gave rise to the principal hemorrhage that had taken place nearly twenty years previously.

A small exostosis was situated on the external plate of the frontal bone on the left side. The brain, heart, liver, stomach, bowels and kidneys were, to all appearance in a normal condition. It is interesting here to notice that repeatedly on previous occasions, he voided large quantities of albumin in the urine, which if simply a chemical examination were relied on, would convey the impression that the kidneys were affected. This points out the importance of a microscopical examination of the urine before pronouncing disease of these organs. In this case the albuminuria was caused by the inefficient manner the lungs performed their function, abnormally increasing the blood pressure in the renal vessels.

There is a decided tubercular family history.

He had hæmoptysis in 1869, which came on while practising in St. Louis with Dr. L. Bauer. In 1871 he came to Manitoba, the change effecting so marked an improvement that his lungs were considered quite restored to their normal state. In 1877 an attack of bronchitis brought him to death's door, and he was obliged to go South to regain his health,

which, however, was never fully equal to what it formerly was, for ever since then he suffered from occasional attacks of asthma.

Had he lived till the next day he would have been forty-four years of age.

Dr. Ferguson calls attention in the above interesting case to the albuminous condition of the urine—a frequent accompaniment of bronchitis. How many cases one can call to mind when the patient was suffering from a bronchitic attack and on the urine being tested found loaded with albumen, advanced Bright's disease was diagnosed and dispensed on post mortem examination.—[Ed.]

#### LORETA'S OPERATION ON THE STOMACH.

Digital dilatation for fibrous stricture of the pylorus, which was first practised by Professor P. Loreta, of Bologna, in 1882, has already in his hands given most satisfactory results in a large number of cases. The *Riforma Medica* of February 18th, contains an account of a case in which the operation was recently performed by Dr. Loreta, which is of special interest owing to the detailed way in which it is reported. In January last a man, 54 years of age, but looking much older, owing to his wasted and careworn appearance, came under the professor's care with the following history:—He had been excessively intemperate both in eating and drinking, and had suffered from severe dyspepsia since 1872. In 1880 he began to be troubled with vomiting, which occurred regularly four or five hours after taking food. The stomach was visibly dilated, and a splashing sound could be heard on succussion. Microscopic examination of the vomited matters gave negative results; neither blood, starch-granules, nor sarcine could be detected. No tumor could be felt in the hypochondriac or epigastric regions; the abdomen yielded readily to pressure with the hand which, however, caused a slight amount of pain. At the place where this tenderness was most pronounced, a hard fibrous

chord was felt at a point corresponding to the situation of the pylorus. On January 30th, after washing out the stomach with an alkaline solution, Professor Loreta made an incision along the linea alba from the xiphoid cartilage to the umbilicus, and exposed the stomach, which was drawn partly out of the wound and opened about midway between the greater and lesser curvatures. The index finger was then passed into the viscus in the direction of the pylorus, through which however, it could not be pushed. A large-sized urethral bougie and afterwards an oesophageal sound were then passed through into the duodenum. By this means the stricture was so far dilated that the operator was able to get his finger through the pylorus and draw it over almost to the abdominal wound. The index of the left hand was then also passed through on the right side as a guide. The pyloric orifice was then dilated by forcible divulsion with the two fingers, a proceeding which the tightness of the stricture rendered very difficult. Finally, the wound in the stomach was closed by continuous, and that in the abdominal wall by interrupted, suture, and an antiseptic dressing was applied. On February 9th the wound was healed, and the patient had completely got rid of his troublesome symptoms. Digestion was perfect, vomiting had entirely ceased, and the man had lost the look of suffering which had been so marked before the operation. Dr. Maurizio Bufalini, who reports the case, says that not a single instance of relapse after Loreta's operation has yet been heard of.

—•••—

### EXCISION OF THE ASTRAGALUS FOR CARIES—IMMOBILITY OBTAINED BY INSERTION OF A BONE DOWEL—RE- COVERY.

—•••—

BY BERNARD R. LEE, M. D.

Resident Surgeon Jewish Hospital.

Read before the Polyclinic Medical Society of Philadelphia.

The child was injured while at play about three months ago, receiving a severe

twist of the ankle joint. The part remained swollen and painful in spite of treatment; the latter, however, was not aided by rest. On admission, the right ankle was found swollen, inflamed and extremely painful. The patient's health is delicate, she presents clear evidence of scrofulous dyscrasia and is seven years old.

She was at once ordered a good, nourishing diet, with full doses of syr. ferri iodidi. Various foods and cod-liver oil emulsions were given from time to time and, it would seem, with excellent results. The joint was thoroughly coated with iodine tincture every few days for a number of weeks; later, an ointment composed of—Ung. Hyd. Nit. Lanoline a, one ounce; Iodoform, half an ounce; Ung. Petrolia, one drachm, was gently rubbed into the part daily. During this time absolute rest was secured with a properly-fitting splint and roller. Under this treatment the joint appeared to be progressing favorably for a time; but on July 17th we found swelling greatly increased, external aspect of joint soft and puffy, and evidently filled with pus. A free incision was made, under complete antiseptic precautions, giving free vent to a large collection of pus. The cavity was thoroughly scraped and washed out with a bichloride solution—1 to 1000—good drainage secured, and the wound dressed antiseptically, with a splint over all, to insure rest.

In October the child's general health, from selected diet and tonic and alterative medication, was markedly improved, but diseased bone was found in the ankle joint. An operation for its removal was considered the best thing to do; and Dr. John B. Roberts, the consultant on duty, advised with us, and set a time for its performance.

November 3rd, 1887 Child was etherized and operation performed at 3 o'clock p.m. Dr. John B. Roberts was present and rendered material advice, direction and assistance.

The ankle joint was laid open on the outer side, extending the incision around anteriorly, making a clear, deep-curve opening, passing through superficial and

deep structures at once, and thus exposing the diseased bone, which proved to be the astragalus. The astragalus was found carious in its interior, with a single sinus leading to its surface, and was therefore removed by seizing it with strong forceps, separating its attachments carefully with a strong cartilage knife, the foot being strongly inverted. After the hemorrhage (which was not great, a few small arteries only requiring ligature) was controlled, openings were made with an awl into the end of the tibia and into the os calcis, and a dowel of bone, two inches in length, introduced, upon the suggestion of Dr. Roberts that it would render unnecessary a rigid splint. After the end of the dowel had been made to penetrate the tibia about one inch, the os calcis was forced up into position by pressure made upon the sole, which drove the dowel deeply into the os calcis. The bones were thus forcibly brought together, and there maintained in good position by the dowel, aided by a plaster-of-Paris dressing.

The tendons which had been cut through were carefully reunited with chronicized gut, and complete antiseptic precautions taken previous to and throughout the operation.

The dressing was allowed to remain in position for four weeks, no untoward symptom or any indication for its removal appearing during that time. It was removed the fourth week after the operation and the part found in good condition. An ordinary, thick binder's board was then shaped to the foot and leg, and applied, to secure safe position. This was deemed preferable to the gypsum. This was, with one or two changes, to see that position was correct, not removed till January 16th, 1888.

The child's general health, at this writing, is excellent, and the ankle is in an entirely favorable condition, having healed as aseptic wounds usually do. It will require more time to thoroughly knit the bones in their new relations, but the case can be reported as a success in every sense, as showing especially the advantage of using the bone dowel to secure and maintain sure apposition of bones after resections of this nature.

The bone peg or dowel was simply a

piece of an ordinary bone crochet needle, rendered aseptic by corrosive sublimate — *Philadelphia Polyclinic.*

## CASES OF DISEASE COMMUNICATED TO HUMAN BEINGS FROM THE COW.

BY H. MADLINS, A.B., M.B. M.CH. UNIV. DUBL.

About six weeks ago five of Mr. P—'s children began to complain of sore mouths, characterized by the appearance of small blister-like vesicles on the tongue and mucous membrane of the mouth. The milk of which they partook freely, being suspected to be the cause of the mouth affection, an inquiry elicited the fact that one of the cows was suffering from a "humor" all over its body. The man in charge of the cow describes this rash as having presented the appearance of small red pimples, and as having been of a dry nature, except in the case of one small vesicle of the size of a threepenny piece which appeared on one of the teats. This vesicle dried up in a day or two, and did not seem to cause any inconvenience to the animal, whose health seemed so little the worse that the man did not think it worth while to inform his master of the appearance of the rash. The cow was at once isolated, and its milk having been kept separate from that of the other cows, it was noticed to have a distinctly greyish colour, "as if ink had been mixed with it." Later on the animal's skin desquamated freely. It is now in good health. The mouth affection yielded to treatment in a few days. Three weeks later, however, the sufferers from it began to display a peculiar skin affection in different parts of their bodies. Each spot began like an ordinary small boil, with red areola and elevated head. The head however, instead of being yellow, was formed by a tiny flat vesicle with limpid contents. This vesicle daily increased in size until the third or fourth day, when the contained fluid changed to a white semi-solid pus, which by its accumulation detached the epithelial covering of the vesicle, leaving a raised ulcer-like sore, over which the pus dried into a firm crust, on the falling

off of which the skin was found to be cicatrised, a smooth dark-red stain marking the site of the vesicle. The number of vesicles was limited, varying in the different cases from two or three to two dozen. Their size varied from that of a split pea to that of a florin. The children became rather weak and anaemic while suffering from the eruption, but there was no marked constitutional disturbance.

REMARKS.—There can be but little doubt that these children were the subjects of milk-communicated disease. It would appear that the milk, having had in the first instance a locally irritant action on the mucus membrane of the mouth, conveyed the germs of a disease which, after an incubatory period of at least two weeks, manifested itself in the shape of a vesicular eruption. There is a considerable degree of likeness between this eruption and that described by Professor Crookshank in his paper on the Hendon Cow Disease as having occurred amongst some of the milkers of "an infected herd." It is noteworthy that in the above cases the disease in the cow took chiefly the form of a red rash, while in the human being it displayed a vesicular nature.

#### BRAIN SURGERY IN DUBLIN.

At a meeting of the Surgical Section of the Royal Academy of Medicine, three successful cases of trephining were reported, and the discussion upon the papers was adjourned to a future night. These cases were all remarkable. Professor Thornley Stoker read particulars of a case in which a man fell from a cart while drunk. He came to the Richmond Hospital some days later, rather stupid, and with some lightly-marked paralytic symptoms. It was not easy to determine whether he had not had an attack of apoplexy. The paralysis becoming more marked, Mr. Stoker trephined in the region of the fissure of Rolando—there was no fracture—and struck the margin of a blood clot. He again trephined and more fully exposed the clot, which was washed out. The area so compressed was about three inches, and the clot measured nearly an inch in depth. The patient re-

covered and was exhibited. Sir W. Stokes read a paper on a case of successful trephining for cerebral abscess, and exhibited his patient. The man had been struck with a poker on the left side of the mesial line of the head, and about an inch anterior to the coronal suture. He was treated as an out-patient at another hospital, but ultimately applied at the Richmond, when he was admitted, several weeks having elapsed from the date of the injury. He soon presented brain symptoms, became convulsed and comatose, and it was determined to trephine. A small fracture was found under the scar; the dura mater bulging into the wound, an exploring needle was introduced to the depth of an inch and a half, and pus was at last found. The dura-mater was then incised, and one ounce and a half of pus was evacuated. The patient completely recovered, and is now attending to his ordinary work. The paper noted eleven other cases of abscess which had been operated upon by various surgeons, and discussed the questions involved. The third case was brought forward by Dr. C. E. Ball, of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, and the patient was also produced. The lad had been struck with a small knife over the squamous portion of the left temporal bone ten days before admission. The wound was healed, but he had some aphasia. Pain in the head and ear supervened, and the aphasia increased. It was determined to explore. He was trephined some weeks after the original injury. A wound was found in the dura-mater corresponding to the puncture of the bone. A sinus forceps was passed in, the wound opened up, and some blood clot escaped. The patient was decidedly better but next morning he was again aphasic. The wound was washed out, and more blood clot escaped. The aphasia almost disappeared, but two days later it returned, and the wound was again washed. After this the patient progressed favorably, and is now well. Dr. Ball pointed out the role of the brain lesion, as indicated by the various symptoms of aphasia. The group of cases was a very remarkable one, and the record of them cannot fail to influence the views of surgeons on the subject of brain surgery.

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 MANITOBA, NORTHWEST AND BRITISH COLUMBIA LANCET.
 

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 MANITOBA AND THE NORTHWEST.
 

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Now that a fresh impetus will be given to this the youngest colony of Great Britain by a satisfactory arrangement having been arrived at between the Dominion Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway with regard to the monopoly question which has so long agitated the public mind, a question regarded in a very different light by persons interested in it, for while some, and they were largely in the minority, advocated the ignoring this clause in the contract for the construction of this great trans-continental line, others, especially the European settlers, recognized that while it was most desirable, in fact for the progress of the province, indispensable, that the clause should be surrendered, inasmuch as the Canadian Pacific Railway directors had so faithfully and satisfactorily completed their part of the agreement, it would be a lasting stigma on the authorities, now when the work was done, to repudiate their portion of it, that it resolved itself into a question of commercial value. On such basis it has been treated and a solution satisfactory to all parties arrived at. No better emigration advertisement could be given than a statement of the fact that this colossal corporation with its immense resources could not handle more than two-thirds of the crop which Manitoba produced in 1887, a province only sparsely populated within the last ten years. While this is being written there are in this Province hundreds of thousands of bushels of surplus wheat in the hands of the farmers, waiting for means of exportation. This vast yield by a country numbering its inhabitants by thousands, when there is abundant room for many millions, is unprecedented in the world's history, and the time is certainly an opportune one for bringing Manitoba more prominently before the British public as a land which for its climatic influences and fertile resources, is pre-eminent on the world's surface, as a home for the Saxon race. Not

withstanding all that has been written, this portion of the Dominion continues to be regarded as an arctic region of almost perpetual ice and snow. This idea has not one grain of solid foundation. Its greatest enemy can apportion to it at the outside but four months of winter and a great portion of that is most enjoyable, while the eight other months are not surpassed by any climate in the world. During the summer months the great heat is tempered by a refreshing breeze which is rarely absent, and the nights are invariably cool. The extreme dryness of the air exercises a benign influence on all pulmonary affections in their early stages and the pure breezes wafted over thousands of miles of vast prairie bring back health and strength to many a disease stricken frame. We do not contend that the country has no drawbacks, a second garden of Eden is yet to be discovered, but we unhesitatingly say that from a personal knowledge of almost every appendage of the British crown, that no land is more adapted for the transplantation of the British race, or has surroundings more calculated to perpetuate vigorous frames and yield an overflowing return for their industry and enterprise. The Creator has done much and it now only waits the energy of man to utilize what has been placed so ready to hand. There is here a limitless field for the industrious. Though the country abounds with the materials necessary for various manufacturing purposes, with the exception of a few mills and a single iron works, not a manufactory exists in the whole country, this vast domain is dependent on the Eastern provinces and the United States for everything even to the twine used for binding, although flax grows in greater perfection here than in any other part of the world. We have an incalculable wealth of coal and yet import largely from the States, the consumer paying \$10.50 per ton, over two guineas of English money. With magnificent pasturage for sheep there is not a good sized flock in the country mainly in consequence of there being no inducement to produce wool, as there are no cloth mills or wollen factories, the wool that is grown is valueless and all wollen goods are imported and retailed at

very advanced prices. With cattle multiplying on the various ranches and an increasing home consumption, hides are accumulating and are sent out of the Province at low figures consequent on their being no tanneries. Boots and shoes are largely imported, not bad to look at, but generally of execrable material, though there exists every facility for the production of our own leather. Examples might be multiplied, but it is sufficient to say that there are no manufactures in the Province if we except beer and aerated beverages with those before alluded to. In no part of the world can the capitalist find more advantageous openings for the employment of his capital than in the Province of Manitoba the demand for everything exists and the supply has to be drawn from far distant sources, adding largely to the cost of the article. We have no means of ascertaining the amount of whiskey consumed, but it must be considerable, and though impossible to surpass the barley produced in the country, when ordinary care is given to its cultivation, singular to relate, not a gallon is distilled. There are one or two enterprising brewers, and the people are beginning to realize that the home product is equal, if not superior, to the imported article. The country is pining for the development of local industries and manufactures. The returns produced by the agricultural population have no abiding place in the province. As fast as money is made it is scattered abroad for the payment of imported articles that rightly should be manufactured here, thereby largely reducing the cost and providing openings for the artisan class. This country is capable of sustaining many other industries besides that of agriculture. Capital and labor is all that is required. Since 1853 over four million two hundred and fifty thousand persons emigrated from the British Isles to the United States of America. We have here hundreds of millions of acres, the same laws, the same habits and the same customs prevailing as in the old country, no transfer of allegiance necessary, in many respects it is but little different from hanging from one English county to another, the one great difference being that a

man may easily compass here what it would be futile for him even to attempt in England, Scotland or Ireland. There can be no doubt that all who desire to live in allegiance with the British Crown, by investigation will find that in comparison with other colonies of Great Britain, Manitoba and Northwestern Canada holds out the fairest opportunity for realizing the objects of the emigrant's desires. Drawbacks may be met with, but in comparison they are few and trifling and no man able to work or with capital to employ labor need allow the possibility of failure to enter into his calculations. To officers leaving the services with either commuted or retiring pay, particularly family men, no colony offers the same advantages, considerable tracts of land can be had en bloc, so that a few families purchasing contiguous farms will secure social intercourse of the same character they have been accustomed to, and the want of which is seriously felt, but is inseparable to all newly populated countries. Manitoba and the Northwest may be relied on as a field where the industrious man may be quite sure of reaping the reward of his industry. The dreamer and the idler will starve and freeze here as elsewhere, and place to the credit of the country what was solely and entirely due to himself. There are but few openings for professional men pure and simple, but divinity, law and physic can all be worked in by the qualified settler. The population will be ever on the increase for many generations to come, and the now isolated occupier will soon find himself the centre of a community. Very many have already to thank this climate for complete restoration to health, particularly those suffering from lung trouble. The European afraid of a breath of cold air may find this difficult to realize in a land where the thermometer not unfrequently during the winter season registers thirty below zero, but it is nevertheless the case, the extreme dryness of the atmosphere exercising a beneficial influence on the respiratory tract. Whether considered in a pecuniary or hygienic aspect, we can conscientiously urge the intending emigrant to immigrate to Manitoba, for under both these headings no land can offer more ad-

vantages and we believe few hold out so many.

For naval and military men, the neighbourhood of Winnipeg presents the most favorable surroundings. There are over a million acres of land for sale in the surrounding district purchasable at a low figure and on very favorable terms of payment. Winnipeggers are an ambitious community, and if the city continues to be laid out on its present lines, it will be unsurpassed. In comparison with the Main street of Winnipeg, Broadway is dwarfed, and this in a prairie town yet in its teens. All that may be said to the contrary, notwithstanding, Winnipeg is destined to be the Chicago of the Northwest. With such facilities for forming a personal opinion, and the positive evidence afforded by the magnificent display of the various products of Manitoba at the recent exhibition in London, it is unnecessary to say more. Those who can live in comfort in England, let them stay there, but those who from circumstances are compelled to emigrate, let them come to Manitoba and help to build up a gigantic Britain.

For the benefit of those who may be desirous of entering into extensive ranching, we print the following from the columns of the *Emigrant* :

#### STOCK RAISING IN CANADA.

There are but five great national grazing grounds in the whole world, viz: in Central Asia, South Africa, South America, and the Plains of North America. The first is larger in extent than all Europe, the second is as great, the third half as much, the fourth is as large as South America, and the fifth the boundless plains of the United States and Canada. The latter is about two million square miles in extent or more millions of acres than the mind can realize, and lie in the Northwest Territories, chiefly in Alberta, Assiniboia and Saskatchewan. These grazing lands extend, in more or less perfection, eastward for eight hundred miles, and westwards parallel to the Rocky Mountain range, across the waters and along the valleys of the North Saskatchewan, Athabasca, Peace, and McKenzie Rivers. Its vast region is mild in winter, rich in soil and well watered with abundant shelter, and adapted to all varieties of domestic stock. At present the most occupied is the Bow River district, near the Rocky Mountains, or a block of country of about one hundred miles square. Speaking of this section Mr. Alex. Begg says: "As a stock-raising country, it is the best in America. I say this advisedly, as I journeyed through a

large portion of Montana, United States, and through the Bow River country, as far north as Fort Edmonton (about 500 miles north of Fort Benton, Montana,) in the months of August, September and October, and closely observed the capabilities of each section along the route. Cattle owners from Montana and Texas, who have resided in the Bow River district for the twelve years, and raised stock west of Fort McLeod, and north towards Calgary, testified freely to the superior grazing properties of the country; whilst the excellent condition of the cattle which had all wintered out during the previous severe winter, was ocular demonstration of the truth of their statements." Stock-growing is as yet not very extensive, probably 250,000 would include all horned cattle, horses and sheep, now on Territorial ranges, but it has grown to that since 1881, and indicates what an immense industry it will become.

The cattle have so far wintered out remarkably well. The natural features of the country are most favorable. Nutritious grasses in the greatest abundance, up to the base of the snow-capped "Rockies" penetrate gorges which frequently open into valleys walled in by perpendicular cliffs, or grow in lovely glades amongst evergreen spruce, and other trees which clothe their lofty sides. Sheltered coulees and ravines leading from the bottom lands, or valleys of creeks and rivers, to the highest levels of the prairie, afford ample protection from storms when they occur. "Chinook winds," from the Pacific coast, rush through the Kootanie, Crows Nest, Bow River, and numerous other passes, along the head waters of hundreds of crystal streams, and around the ends of longitudinal ridges, forming channels or conductors for these warm winds to increase the temperature and dissolve the snow as if by magic.

We have seen as fine a display of meat in Calgary in the month of May as can be seen in the London markets at Christmas time—five year old beasts that had never had a bite of artificial food, and had been driven off the ranches at the termination of winter, in condition superior to many stall fed animals.

#### MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The efforts of the medical staff of the Winnipeg General Hospital are now directed towards attaching a lying in hospital to that institution. The building is proposed to be erected in this hospital grounds though not immediately connected with it. The advantages of this arrangement as placed before the public by a published record of the minutes of a meeting held by the staff, is that it will be a great benefit to the general hospital,

This is very probable, but this benefit would be conferred at the expense of the welfare and convenience of the public—a consideration which must very prominently influence the decision ultimately arrived at. It would seem that this rush into public print in a professional matter is taken with a view of coercing the ladies who so efficiently conducted the late maternity charity to hand over their funds to the governing body of the General Hospital. Such a course will meet with very little sympathy and may stir into activity what had better be allowed to slumber.

That a lying-in charity is advantageously placed contiguous to a building where all classes and forms of disease are treated, no one would have the temerity to assert, and there can be no doubt if the interests of those who may become patients of the maternity hospital be consulted, the proposed building will be erected a very considerable distance from the General Hospital. There can be no second opinion on this point which disposes of the hygienic aspect of the proposition. The General Hospital is over a mile from the city, with, in bad weather, very unsatisfactory approaches. Those conversant with lying-in institutions are aware how frequently the very last moment is waited for before the parturient woman seeks admission. A long drive, at a considerable expense, would be necessitated to reach the institution, if built where proposed, which the patient could probably ill bear, and be unable to afford. It can hardly be contemplated to keep an ambulance for this special purpose, and on the other hand, if women are received into the institution for a certain time before their confinement, an unnecessary expense is incurred which cripples the resources of the charity. We believe these two objections to be unanswerable; but still further it is undesirable in the interests of the proposed charity and in that of the general public, from whom its support will be derived, that its government and guidance should be handed over to the executive of the General Hospital. Manitobans have an objection to monopoly; a ministry has just been wrecked and a party demoralized by faint hearted opposition to the hydra headed monster. Let those who work so

well in the interests of the General Hospital, continue to it their faithful services, and let others, equally able and willing, take in hand the proposed maternity charity and thus ensure its success and the support and confidence of the community at large.

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## UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA.

At a special convocation held at the City Hall, on the 17th of April, His Lordship the Metropolitan, Chancellor of the University, conferred the M. D. degree on Drs. Large, Gemmel, Latimer, McIntyre, Sibbit and Carscallen. Dr. Large received the University Scholarship of \$100 and the Lafferty gold medal. Dr. J. E. Gemmel the University Scholarship of \$60 and the Boyle Scholarship. Drs. Good, Blanchard and Dame were admitted to the same degree, *ad eundem gradum*. C. M. Drs. Patterson, O'Reilly, Higginson and J. A. McArthur.

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## APPOINTMENT.

Dr. A. H. Furguson has been appointed to the Chair of Surgery, Manitoba Medical College.

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## PERSONAL.

Dr. Bain spent a few days in Winnipeg on his way to Ottawa as a deputation to urge the construction of a railway to Prince Albert, a mission which we hope will be attended with success. Dr. Bain, a brother of Judge Bain, of the Manitoba bench, is a prominent member of the profession in the Northwest, deservedly popular; he will, if so inclined, assume a leading position in public matters in the territories.

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## BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACY.—The March number of this very valuable publication, besides its usual wide range of general pharmaceutical matter, contains very interesting chapters on Olive culture in California, Honey production in California, and The Home of the Cinchona.

THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DIRECTORY, published by Geo. P. Rowell & Co., 10 Spruce St., New York, has just been issued. It has become a necessity for all newspapers on the American continent to register in the pages of this directory. Our cousins are artists in the science of advertising, and Messrs. Rowell & Co. head the profession. The American Newspaper Directory for 1888 contains an immense amount of useful information for all persons.

### NOTES OF DISEASES AMONG THE INDIANS.

By PERCY W. MATTHEWS, Medical Officer Hudson Bay Co.

In this pamphlet of Dr. Matthews, we learn that the Indian takes equal share with the white man in the various ills that flesh is heir to—aggravated in the noble savage by years of neglect and dirt. By Dr. Matthews showing, the Indians, at any rate those in the vicinity of York Factory, are not exhibiting much signs of decay; on the contrary, while he places the death role at 12 in 1,000, the births are in comparison 44 per 1,000. He gives the sufferers from epilepsey at 4 per cent. of the population. Civilization would seem to have multiplied the perils of maternity. Mention is made of what Dr. Matthews calls a bastard form of syphilis, assuming the tertiary symptoms of the disease with all its characteristic effects. No doubt a product of primary syphilitic virus, it is designated by the Indians, as "Muchetaspawin," or bad disease. A legacy bequeathed to the red man by Arctic explorers. The disease is controlled by mercury.

NOTE.—It is a well known fact that a very large proportion of the Canadian Indians of the Northwest are saturated with syphilis, hereditary and acquired.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

BELGIAN JUDGES ON THE VALUE OF MEDICAL SERVICES.—Belgian judges would seem to entertain a very poor appreciation of the value of a medical man's time and services, if we may judge by a case that has recently been tried at Louvain. A medical man in country practice,

having attended a wealthy old bachelor for some five months before he died, sent in his account to the executors, who disputed it as exorbitant, and so the doctor was compelled to endeavor to recover his fees by an action in a court of law. The account amounted to 1175 francs (£47), which comprised thirty-eight consultations with a Brussels physician at 20 fr. (760 fr.); fifty six day visits at 5 fr. and five night visits at 10 fr. (330 fr.) medicines, 85 fr. The defendants denied that the visits with the physician were consultations, and they offered 2 fr. for each day visit and 3 fr. for each night visit. The court, however, "considering that the patient lived three miles from the doctor, who was obliged to make visits at predetermined hours along with a colleague from Brussels, and that night journeys, especially in winter, are troublesome," decided that "day visits might be equitably fixed at 2.50 fr. and night visits at 5 fr.;" so that all that was allowed the unfortunate practitioner was 235 fr. for ninety-four day visits, 25 fr. for five night visits, and 85 fr. for medicines (the only item which was not disputed), so that the total was cut down to 345 fr. (£13 16s.)—a magnificent remuneration, indeed, for such an attendance! A cab-driver would certainly expect more for a similar number of journeys.

The *Conseil de Salubrite* of Paris has recently discovered the inconvenience of allowing carpets to be brushed and beaten in the open air in the vicinity of inhabited houses, on account of the dust which is so raised, and especially on account of the bacteria which may be set free when the carpets come from houses where zymotic diseases have existed. The *Conseil de Salubrite* has decided that this operation will be allowed only under the following conditions: The carpets must be brushed and beaten in entirely shut-up rooms, and the dust deposited on the floor will be washed with water containing some disinfectant of potent action; strips of wool, etc., will be burnt immediately. This measure is a good one, and will certainly prove useful. Sources of contamination are much too numerous to be allowed to remain, when we possess means of destroying them.

In the same meeting of the *Conseil de Salubrite* the question of separate barracks for contagious diseases has been much discussed, and it is a shame to the Paris hospitals that more has not been done in this direction. Contagious and non-contagious cases are mixed together in the wards; and it often happens that patients die of a disease contracted in the hospital, after having been nearly cured of that which had caused them to apply for medical treatment. I have myself often seen cases of diphtheria contagion brought on in this manner. The first path in this direction was made some years ago, with good results, when the *accouchement* wards were entirely separated from the surgical and medical ones. Now, each hospital ought to contain a number of entirely separate and distinct wards, one for each sort of contagious disease, or else special barracks must be built for the same purpose. At all events, it is not possible to continue mixing contagious and non-contagious diseases, and having cases of death due to this stupid management. There are cases, and this is one, in which stupidity becomes criminal.

SODIUM BORATE is recommended in solution (fifteen per cent.) in the treatment of diphtheria. It is applied locally by the spray or with a soft brush, and is also to be taken internally in doses of from five to twenty minims.—*Quart. Therap. Rev.*

CHLORAL HYDRATE IS RABIES.—Brown-Sequard report a series of experiments on rabbits and birds, in which he produced a kind of rabies by injecting oil of tansy. This rabies he was able to control by the vapor and subcutaneous injections of chloral. Brown-Sequard thinks that, from analogy, chloral is a preventive of true rabies.—*L'Union Med.; Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc.*

OAT FLOUR IN THE TREATMENT OF BURNS, is recommended by Greene (*Brit. Med. Jour. N. Y. Med. Jour.*), on the score of its freedom from odor, its soothing and anti-septic properties, its superior healing power, its cheapness, and the ease with which it can generally be obtained at short notice. He directs a paste to be made of equal parts of the flour and fresh

(unsalted) lard, to be applied spread on lint or old calico, the application to be renewed every day, or every second day, according to the exigencies of the case.

THE ADVANTAGES OF USTILAGO OVER ERGOT.—Dr. Frank H. Potter in a paper on the "Proper Use of Ergot in Obstetrical Practice," closes his article with a series of ten conclusions. In these he states that when administered during labor the action of ergot is uncertain, producing irregular contractions, rigidity of the os, with interference of the placental circulation, or too rapid expulsion of the fetus, jeopardizing the maternal tissues. He also asserts that the life of the child is endangered through absorption of the oil of ergot, and that indirectly the drug may prove a cause of puerperal septicæmia by preventing the removal of every portion of the placenta and membranes. His last conclusion is as follows: "The proper use of ergot in obstetrical practice is limited to those cases in which, after the expulsion of the placenta, the uterus refuses to contract, or having once contracted, shows a tendency to secondary relaxation. Even in these cases reliance should not be placed upon it alone, but its action should be supplemented by the other means used to provoke uterine contraction.

When compared to this formidable array of objections the employment of *ustilago* seems much to be preferred to that of ergot. It does not produce irregular contractions with all the consequent complications and sequelæ; containing but two and a half per cent. of fixed oil, while ergot contains from twenty-five per cent. to twenty-eight per cent., the dangers of absorption are reduced to a minimum; and, finally, as it can be procured at a cost of fifty per cent. less than that of ergot, it seems to be on a fair highway toward the supplanting of the latter in obstetrical practice, should the results of the investigations thus far be confirmed by subsequent researches.—*Med. News.*

POISONING WITH IODOL.—Pallin gives an account of a case of necrosis of the clavicle in which an operation was performed, and seventy-five grains of iodol were applied to the wound. During the

evening of the same day the patient became delirious, and on the following day his temperature was 102.2° F., his pulse was 136, small and irregular, and he vomited and was apathetic. The urine showed traces of albumen and a weak iodine reaction. Although the dressing was changed at once, all the iodol being washed out of the wound and bismuth applied in its place, the symptoms of poisoning lasted four days longer, and for a fortnight iodine was to be recognized in the urine.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*

Dr. Wentscher reports, in the *Berlin Klin. Woch.*, a case of ileus cured by intestinal puncture and one washing-out of the stomach, as recommended by Kussmaul. The obstruction had lasted ten days. A coil of intestine was clearly marked on the left side, above the umbilicus, and a fine trocar introduced. Gases of not a very bad odor passed through the canula, and also a teaspoonful of opaque green-white fluid of fecal odor.

The abdominal swelling immediately collapsed.

The stomach-pump was also used shortly after and the relief was prompt.

Dr. Geneuil writes to the *Bulletin General de Therapeutique*, that after having tried various means to arrest epistaxis in children, he tried lemon-juice, and for twelve years has had, from its use, the best results, with no failures. His method is, first to wash out the nostrils with an ordinary urethral syringe, and then, having removed all clots, he injects with the syringe the juice of the freshly squeezed lemon. He found that almost always one injection is sufficient to stop the bleeding in two minutes. He did not get such results from using citric acid.

At the London Medical and Chirurgical Society Dr. Gowers recently showed a patient from whose spine a tumor was successfully removed. He had suffered severe pain for about three years, located just below and inside the angle of the left scapula, and it was accompanied by absolute loss of motion and sensation of the body and limbs below that level. Mr. Victor Horsely removed the spines, and parts of the laminae of the fifth and fourth dorsal vertebrae; but not until the third

vertebrae had been similarly opened, did the tumor come into sight. It was a small oval myxoma, compressing and making a deep impression on the left side of the spinal chord below the third vertebrae. It was easily shelled out, and under careful antiseptic treatment the wound healed, but for three or four weeks the pain did not abate. After that, however, it decreased, until, seven months after, it is entirely gone, and the sensation and motion of the body and legs are almost completely restored. This is stated to be the first time such an operation has been attempted.

In cases of greatly contracted pelvis, endangering both the mother and the unborn infant, Dr. MacEwen suggests the substitution of subcutaneous osteotomy for abdominal section. He claims to have demonstrated that section of the pubic bone an inch and a half or two inches from the symphysis pubis, and section of the ascending rami of the ischia, would add one and one-half inches to the antero-posterior diameter of the pelvis, and that, in case more room is required, the ilium could be divided on each side. The operation has never been performed yet upon the living subject, but Professor MacEwen holds himself ready to perform it when called upon. Candidates for the *Cæsarian Section* will bear this important announcement in mind.

Is a Safe now a Safe?—At the meeting of the Liverpool section of the Society of Chemical Industry, on Wednesday, March 7th, Mr. Thomas Fletcher, F. C. S., gas engineer, of Warrington, gave a demonstration of the application of some new gas heating appliances, devised by himself for workshop emergencies, one of the feats of the evening being the fusion of a large hole in a plate of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick wrought iron, in a few seconds, without preparation, and with apparatus which could be carried by a man up a ladder and used in any position. The Secretary, in the discussion which followed the experiments, raised the very serious point that with such apparatus as Mr. Fletcher had exhibited and used, a burglar proof safe no longer existed, as it was simply a question of minutes to fuse a hole large enough for

a man to enter in any wrought iron or steel door in existence. Chilled iron or steel were powerless to resist the small blow-pipe Mr. Fletcher used, which would penetrate thick iron and steel plates as readily as ordinary carpenter's tools would penetrate wooden doors. The apparatus was devised by Mr. Fletcher for works repairs, and was noisy in action; but, as he explained, the apparatus could be made silent, and small enough to carry in a hand-bag. This is a very serious matter for bankers and others who have valuable property, and one which will have to be taken up at once by the safe and strong room makers. It is very well known that the professional burglar is ready to utilize the latest applications of science for his own ends; in fact, Mr. Fletcher's furnaces designed to assist in chemical research are well known as being used by receivers of stolen goods to reduce plate and jewellery to ingots, and these furnaces may be seen in the detectives' museum at Scotland Yard. Bankers have already taken the alarm, and have visited Mr. Fletcher's works with the object of seeing the extraordinary ease with which large openings can be fused in heavy iron or steel plates. It is hardly necessary to say that Mr. Fletcher plainly declares his intention not to devise a silent form of the apparatus, which naturally would be required only for burglar's use, but the light-fingered profession will no doubt take the matter in hand, and most probably succeed in making the apparatus silent, a modification which Mr. Fletcher states can be made. During our own interview with Mr. Fletcher on this very serious matter, he informed us that the present danger is possibly not so great as it appears, owing to the fact that the apparatus necessary to manufacture and prepare the silent arrangement is both costly and large, and as the person who prepares it must have fixed machinery and plant, he will most probably be one of the last to whom the enterprising burglar would apply for his apparatus.—*Chemical News.*

**COCA EXTRACT IN PAINFUL AFFECTIONS OF THE STOMACH.**—In the last two years and a half D'Ardenne has treated many cases of painful affections of the stomach

with coca extract, for the purpose of relieving the pain.

**ETHER AS A PARASITICIDE.**—The killing of pediculi pubis by one single application of ether, has first been suggested by Dr. G. P. Thomas, of Alameda, in California. Ether recommends itself in preference to chloroform, which has been employed for the same purpose, as causing less pain and irritation to the skin of this very tender region.—*London Medical Record.*

**PYRIDINE IN ASTHMA.**—In the course of former experiments Renzi observed that, besides lessening the number of respirations, pyridine also increased the energy of the heart's systole. He therefore tested it in severe cases of heart disease. He first gave the pyridine in doses of from six to ten drops, diluted with two or three drachms of water, and gradually increased the dose to twenty-five drops. In the cases of nephritis and mitral stenosis there was no improvement, but in the others there was a strengthening of the systolic impulse, and the number of beats was lessened. The blood-pressure was increased. A systolic action was allayed more readily by pyridine than by digitalis, and it has no cumulative effects. Angina pectoris, that often complicates such cases, was more benefitted by pyridine than by anything else.—*Centralbl. f. klin. Med.; Jour. Am. Med. Assoc.*, Dec. 10, 1887.

**EFFECTS OF SALICYLIC ACID ON THE HEALTH.**—The question whether the continuous use of salicylic acid is injurious was attacked by Kolbe, who took for nine months at least fifteen grains of salicylic acid daily in his drink without the least symptom of injury. Dr. Lehmann (*Arch. f. Hygiene*, V.) has further experimented on two Munich laborers, one of whom, aged forty-nine, for ninety-one days, excepting Sundays and holidays, *i. e.* for seventy-five days, took altogether in his beer five hundred and seventy-eight grains. The other, aged thirty-seven, consumed in the same time over seven hundred grains. Neither of these suffered in the least. Now this amount is immensely in excess of what could possibly have been put in the exported beer alleged to have contained salicylic acid. It should be further said that the best brewers re-

pudding both the allegation of using salicylic acid and the necessity of using it. —*Med. Chronicle*, October 6, 1887.

**A CURE FOR THE MORPHINE HABIT.**—Cramer accidentally discovered in the tincture of castor, (castor 1, alcohol 5.) a remedy for breaking off the morphine habit. *Rundschau* 1887, p. 812 *Pharm. Centrallh.*, 1887, p. 645.

**FOR MOSQUITO BITES.**—Dr. Gerard recommends to paint the affected part with chloroform. The pain and itching are stopped at once, and the swelling is soon reduced. It can also be used for the sting of other insects. *Pharm. Post.* 1887, p. 676.

**PORCELAIN SHOT.**—Under this name small white globules of porcelain are made in Munich. They are made to take the place of ordinary lead shot used for cleaning wine and medicine bottles, as porcelain is entirely free from the objection of producing lead contamination, which is often the result when ordinary shot is used. Their hardness and rough surface producing when shaken greater friction, adapt the porcelain shot well for quickly cleaning dirty and greasy bottles, and as they are not acted upon by acids or alkalies, almost any liquid can be used.—*Rundschau, Prag*, 1887, p. 942.

**INSTANTANEOUS COOLING.**—Under this name a convenient substitute for outward application of ice is made by Baschlin of Montpellier. It consists of felting made from cotton, jute, cotton-waste or china-grass, saturated with a mixture of several salts, (nitrate of ammonium, chloride of ammonium, nitrate of potassium and sulphate of sodium) which upon wetting with water, produces a low temperature.—*Phar. Centrallh.*, 1887, p. 532.

**KEFIR OR MILK WINE.**—Reeb in *Journal Ph. d'Als. Lorr.* gives the following improved formula: To fresh milk acidulated with a small quantity of citric acid, add two per cent. of simple syrup and shake the mixture vigorously to insure more active fermentation. Cork securely in strong-bottles and keep them undisturbed in a warm place. In three or four days the kefir is ready for use. It contains two per cent of alcohol, is

strongly effervescent and possesses a very agreeable bouquet. *Rundschau, Prag*, p. 998.

**DR. W. R. HOLMES**, in the *Dental Luminary*, says:—

"I have been using nitrous-oxide gas in my practice for a number of years. It has been a habit with me to test the condition of my patients during the inhalation of the gas, by requesting them to raise the left arm. They usually responded, some continuing to raise and lower the arm until the effect of the gas passed off, seeming to be impressed with the idea that they must do so. The next occasion I had to administer gas, I made the usual examination of the mouth, and, after learning which teeth I was required to remove, I turned abruptly to the patient, and said, 'If, while you are under the influence of the gas you hear me request you to open your mouth, do so; you can if you understand now that it is necessary.' I said nothing about raising his arm; but just as I thought he had inhaled enough gas, I said, 'Raise your left arm, and was surprised to see, that, instead of doing so, he promptly opened his mouth wide. As his breathing indicated that he had enough gas, I dropped the inhaler, and extracted the teeth. After he regained consciousness, I said, 'Did you hear me ask you to raise your arm? He said, 'I heard you tell me something; and, as you had charged me to open my mouth if asked to do so, I thought that was what you wanted.' I have taken advantage of this experience ever since,—some three years,—and have yet to meet the first failure. After charging the patient to respond by opening the mouth when told to, I proceed to administer the gas; and just before he passes under its influence, I say, 'Remember and open your mouth when I tell you to.' Thus the last thing the patient thinks of is opening his mouth, and almost invariably it is the first thing he does. I have tried the command without previous instruction, and failed to obtain a response. I think this suggestion a valuable one, and will result in great benefit if properly attended to."



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