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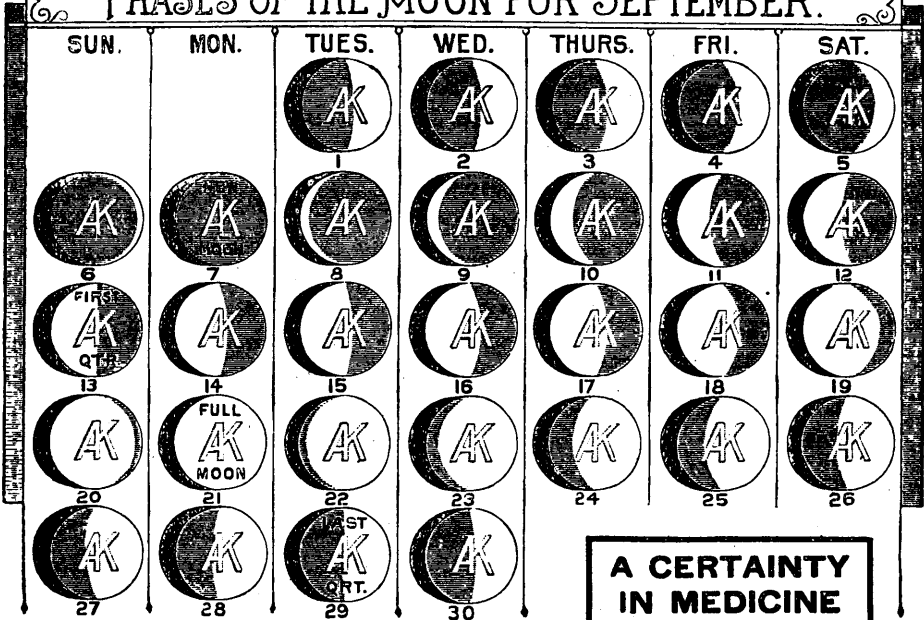
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HALIFAX, N. S., SEPTEMBER, 1896.

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Original Communications.

THE ABUSE OF ALCOHOLIC DRINKS.

ITS RELATION TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND ITS PREVENTION.

By W. BAYARD, M. D., St. John.

(Read before the American Medical Association, May, 1896.)

GENTLEMEN,—Your secretary having paid me the compliment of soliciting that I should read a paper before your Association, I cheerfully obey the request, feeling that we are brothers working in a good cause, for the benefit of our fellow man.

I have selected for discussion the ABUSE of alcoholic drinks, its relation to public health, and its prevention. I emphasize the ABUSE, as I am unwilling to believe that the moderate and proper USE of them has relation to Public Health.

It will not be disputed that the ABUSE of them, with its attendant consequences, disease, insanity, crime, poverty, and premature death, is the greatest evil of the AGE, and that it calls loudly for remedial measures. What those measures shall be, has exercised the minds of many.

The subject has been discussed in the pulpit and on the platform, some claiming that nothing but coercive and restrictive measures will remedy the evil, while others declare that such measures will aggravate

it, both wishing to arrive at the same goal, but differing as to the road; in their enthusiasm, two out of ten ignoring all rights, appealing to passions and prejudices, claiming more than can be accomplished, and deliriously denouncing those who differ from them, thereby injuring a good cause. The subject is of such vast importance that it should be approached calmly and reasonably, appealing to the mind from a sanitary and moral standpoint.

Our professional education teaches us the physiological action of alcohol—the base of all intoxicating drinks—upon the human system; when it shall be abstained from, and when it can be taken with advantage. It teaches us that when taken into the stomach in a concentrated form, a chemical action takes place, in consequence of its strong affinity for water, seizing that fluid contained in the tissue, producing a coagulation, rendering it hard and dense, and destroying for a time the absorbing power of that organ, which will only be renewed when the alcohol becomes sufficiently diluted with the water in the tissue. It may be observed that pure brandy, which usually contains equal parts of alcohol and water, is sufficiently strong to produce this coagulation. That when diluted it is absorbed into the circulation with marvelous rapidity, as proved by the experiments of Dr. Percy, who found that when death took place in two minutes after it was injected into the stomach of the animal, that organ was found almost void of it, while it was found in the blood, and in considerable quantity in the substance of the brain. It appears to seek out and fasten itself upon the nervous matter, affecting, in the first stage of intoxication, the intellectual faculties through the CEREBRUM. In the second stage, a disturbed function of the SENSORY GANGLIA, as indicated by the want of control over the muscular movements which are guided by sensation. And in the third stage, when the functions of the CEREBRUM and SENSORY GANGLIA are suspended, and those of the MEDULLA OBLONGATA and SPINAL CORD now begin to be affected, as shown by the difficulty of respiration, strabismus, dilated pupils and tetanic spasms.

According to Richardson, the man who swallows eight ounces of alcohol in twenty-four hours, increases the number of the beats of his heart from 100,000 to 114,046 during that period. At the same time altering the shape and quality of the red globules of the blood.

Observations teach us that alcohol is partly eliminated from the system by the lungs, bowels, kidneys and skin. But the amount thus eliminated is so small that it does not account for all that disappears

Carpenter thinks that a combustive process takes place in the blood, at the expense of the oxygen it contains. While the experiments of E. Smith and others go to show that there is no increase of carbonic acid produced. And Anstie and Thudicum contend that it is consumed in some way in the economy, though how they do not say. It is urged by Beale and Bing that alcohol possesses the property of restraining the rapid growth of young cells, and like quinine, of checking the increase of the white corpuscles of the blood.

While alcohol is one of the means of keeping up animal heat through the increased action of the heart, it cannot be classed as fuel-food. Animal heat is maintained by the combination of the carbon and hydrogen contained in the blood, with the oxygen taken in by the lungs. Fats and sugars in the blood yield the carbon and hydrogen, and while alcohol furnishes the same elements for combustion, it is not certain that it plays the same part in the body. Alcohol does not contain any of the constituents necessary for the growth and the regeneration of the muscular system.

Our professional experience too often teaches us the baneful effects, morally and physically upon the individual who indulges in the use of alcoholic drinks to excess. While the justice is daily and hourly brought face to face with the "moral evil," the physician is as often called upon to combat the inroads upon the constitution produced by the ABUSE of them.

Laudable efforts have been made to stay the progress of intemperance. Societies have been formed, laws enacted, and persuasive and coercive measures adopted. Yet according to the investigations of the Harveian Society, it appears that in London one-seventh of all adult deaths (male and female) is directly or indirectly due to the consequences of alcoholic excess.

The statesman requires the aid of all enlightened minds to assist him in framing such laws as will meet the difficulty. And the people at large require to be taught that the ABUSE, and often-times the continued USE, of alcoholic drinks, leads to results dreadful to contemplate. They must be made to believe that they are swallowing a poison, which, if taken at improper times and in improper quantities, will sooner or later inevitably create disease of body and mind. And who can educate them so well on these points as the physician? And gentlemen let me add, is it not our duty as custodians of the public health and as well-wishers of

our race, by precept and example, to exercise that influence which each and every one of us can command towards this end ?

A certain amount of self control is implanted in the mind of every individual, he knows that danger attends many of his acts, he commits the acts and avoids the danger, so with the alcoholic drinks, the danger lies not in the USE of them, but in the IMPROPER use of them. His daily experience teaches him that many, very many, become victims to the ABUSE. He thinks that he possesses sufficient self-control to avoid the danger, and so he does, up to a certain period ; but let him continue to indulge at IMPROPER TIMES and in IMPROPER QUANTITIES, that self-control is lost and cannot be regained but by CONTINUED TOTAL ABSTINENCE ; one glass will rekindle the appetite, when the fire will continue to burn until disease and death follow.

If an individual is so weak minded, and so much the creature of impulse and selfish desire, that having experienced the pleasurable effects of intoxicating drinks, he will voluntarily surrender that power given to him by Providence for his safety, and throw aside the reins of self-government, he is to be pitied, can claim no respect, and is a fit subject for restrictive laws and punishment. He should know that the highest attribute of a well-regulated mind, is the power of self-control, and that the act of self-government is NOBLE, when exercised in the face of TEMPTATION, nothing without it, and he will not restrain an injurious appetite, degrades himself to the level with the brute creation.

The individual under the influence of alcoholic liquors, feels an exhilaration of spirits, a sensation of gayety, is pleased with himself and others, his ideas flow rapidly, and he pours forth his thoughts with force of expression and richness of conception. But as the candle burning brilliantly in an atmosphere of oxygen, soon burns itself out, so the over-stimulated brain becomes exhausted and demands rest, upon the well known principle that undue mental excitement, from any cause, is invariably followed by depression and languor.

The fact that alcohol when taken into the circulation, augments the force and radidity of the heart's action, increases the excitability of the nervous system and supplies one of the means of keeping up animal heat ; commends it to the physician when other means for obtaining those effects are defective. And our practical experience teaches that when administered with caution and discrimination, it is a valuable remedy in various forms of disease, and one for which no proper substitute has yet been found. As to its mode of action in the cure of

disease we cannot speak with certainty. Dr. Sanderson's theory seems to be accepted, that in certain diseases the tissues waste, first the fat, then the muscles, and that the alcohol prevents their waste at a time when the patient's stomach is too weak to receive nutritious food. He says that the cause of the waste of the tissues is that they are used or burned in the process of respiration; alcohol takes their place and supports respiration when the stomach is too weak to prepare and assimilate any other food for the purpose. The practical application of them must be left to the judgment of the physician, no two cases being exactly alike, each differing in constitution temperament and intensity. But he should be careful to avoid bringing the system into a habit of dependence upon the stimulus, for it cannot be doubted that over-indulgence has commenced with the therapeutic use of it. Hence he should be ever on his guard.

Those who value good health and wish to enjoy the effects of alcoholic drinks socially, will naturally ask, at what time and in what quantity can they be used with impunity. We may answer, that except in sickness, alcohol in any of its forms should NEVER BE TAKEN WITHOUT FOOD, and preferably at dinner. I wish to impress this precept as strongly as words can express it upon the minds of all who hear me, believing as I do, that food is the great antidote to its injurious effects, and that if this rule were adopted, we would not see one inebriate for every hundred we see under the present pernicious custom of drinking at all hours of the day and upon an empty stomach.

A man meets a friend to whom he wishes "to do the civil," he asks him to go and have a drink; the friend is not thirsty, but he does not wish to be "uncivil" and goes, they have their glass, they meet other friends in the shop, who also want to be "civil," the result is many glasses are taken upon an empty stomach that cannot at the time bear with impunity one glass. This is not the USE, it is the ABUSE, and he who so indulges, will sooner or later pay the penalty. Happily this "treating habit" is decreasing.

As to the quantity, it is difficult to lay down any rule, that which would be enough for one would be too much for another. The quantity usually taken at a dinner party, if habitually taken would prove injurious. From one to three glasses of port, sherry or claret should be the limit. Light wines are preferable, the stronger liquors should never be taken in larger quantities than from one to two ounces, and then largely diluted.

Before a remedy is applied to an evil, its cause should be studied. The fondness for stimulants of some kind is almost universal the world over, every nation exhibiting more or less of it since the time of Noah, who, "drank wine and was drunken." And I may add that the most civilized and the most powerful nations are the most drunken. Does not this fondness for alcoholic drinks originate in the "beneficent instinct" implanted in man, which prompts him to seek pleasure and avoid pain, bodily or mental? I think it does.

While the history of Intemperance teaches us that the evil is less than it was at any period since the first century, still the existing evil is of such magnitude that it urgently demands remedial measures.

There are four that present themselves to reflecting mind, namely, SANITATION, EDUCATION, LEGISLATIVE REGULATION and PROHIBITION.

SANITATION, there is abundant evidence to prove that insanitary surroundings is the cause of more or less bodily and mental languor often accompanied by lowness of spirit, the man returns from his daily work to a cheerless home, with few comforts, fatigued in body and worried in mind, he takes a glass his cares assume a pleasanter aspect, and according to Solomon, "His heart grows lighter," here lies the danger, continue the habit, and this USE is soon followed by the ABUSE. Give him a bright, cheerful, healthy and happy home, and you remove a large cause of intemperance.

EDUCATION, I contend, is the most potent combatant against inebriety, Appeal to the man's fears and to his understanding. Teach him that alcoholic drinks do not assist his muscular power. That they do not enable him to withstand the effects of heat or cold. That they do not contain the necessary ingredients for his well-being, and that he is much better without them. Teach him that if he will take them, from one to two ounces of whisky or brandy should be the limit. Teach him that under no circumstances—in health—should they be taken on an empty stomach or without food. Forbid their use in any form—except as medicine—to the young. Teach him that the exhilarating effect of alcoholic drink is evanescent, and that the effect is certain to be followed by a corresponding depression. That if he continues to take them in quantity or at improper times, a dangerous craving and dependence upon them is produced, which, sooner or later will obtain the control of him. No man intends or expects to arrive at this stage, he may say to you, this one or that one has taken them as he does—with impunity—true, but this is the exception to the rule, and many are ruined by such

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"It affords me great pleasure to say that ever since its introduction I have prescribed Wyeth's Malt Extract with gratifying results. I believe it to be a most valuable and reliable aid and stimulant to the processes of digestion and assimilation, in addition to its purely nutrient qualities, which from analysis given must be of a high order."

DR. DEMARTIGNY, St. Denis St., Montreal, also tells us that he has some thirty patients using Wyeth's Malt Extract, and recommends it very highly.

"I have often had much difficulty in getting patients to take the semi-solid Extracts of Malt and your preparation of Wyeth's Liquid Malt Extract I think will fill a long felt want, and I see a very large field for its use."

F. WAYLAND CAMPBELL, M. A., M. D., L. R. C. P., Lond.

DR. F. A. MARCOTTE, of St. Anne de la Perade, also writes:—

"I prescribed Wyeth's Malt Extract as a tonic in great feebleness produced by laborious accouchement with excellent results, and I can recommend it above all as a tonic to augment lacteal secretions."

DAVIS & LAWRENCE CO., (Lim.) Montreal,

General Agents in Canada for JOHN WYETH & BRO.

We have no hesitation in stating, that as a Tonic, Stimulant and Roborant, WYETH'S BEEF, IRON AND WINE has proven more uniformly beneficial than any combination we have ever known It is substantially a universal tonic.

In the majority of cases, along with failure of strength, and indeed as one cause of that failure, there is an inability to digest nourishing food. Hence it is very desirable to furnish nourishment in a form acceptable to the stomach, at the same time to excite this organ to do its duty. On the other hand, again, wine stimulus, although needed, is ill borne if given by itself, producing headache, excitement and other symptoms which may be avoided by the addition of nutritious substance, such as the Essence of Beef. Iron, also, can be taken in this way by the most delicate or sensitive woman or child, to whom it may be inadmissible as usually given.

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To give strength after illness.—For many cases in which there is pallor, weakness, palpitation of the heart, with much nervous disturbance, as, for example, where there has been much loss of blood, or during the recovery from wasting fevers, this article will be found especially adapted. Its peculiar feature is that it combines Nutriment with Stimulus.

To those who suffer from weakness it is a Nutritive Tonic, indicated in the treatment of Impaired Appetite, Impoverishment of the Blood, and in all the various forms of General Debility. Prompt results will follow its use in cases of Sudden Exhaustion, arising either from acute or chronic diseases.

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To clergymen, teachers and members of other professions, who suffer from weakness, WYETH'S BEEF, IRON AND WINE is very effectual in restoring strength and tone to the system after the exhaustion produced by over mental exercise.

For Overwork—Many men and women know that the continuous fatigued feeling they labor under is due to overwork, still they find it impossible just yet to take complete rest. WYETH'S BEEF, IRON AND WINE gives renewed vigor, is stimulating, and at the same time is particularly nourishing.

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exceptions. Teach him that they act injuriously upon every organ of the body, and that the injury is not confined to himself, but extends to his offspring, entailing upon them insanity, idiocy, and inebriety, a catalogue that should alarm any sane mind. Plutarch says that "one drunkard begets another;" and Aristotle that "drunken women bring forth children like unto themselves." He may tell you that he will reduce his allowance. Impress upon him that he cannot do this in safety, one glass will surely kindle the appetite. Total abstinence will alone protect him.

Temperance and total abstinence societies have done and are doing much good. While I do not agree with their mode of education, inasmuch as they ignore the power of self-control in man and say to him we will not trust you, we must have a pledge. Still, acknowledging the good they have done and are doing, I strongly advise those who fear to trust themselves to take the pledge. But as men are more easily led than driven, I feel that temperance enthusiasts will accomplish more for their cause by claiming less and by refraining from denouncing those who do not see eye to eye with them, as holding the cup to their neighbours lip. Lectures should be given pointing out the evil, and it should be daily impressed upon the mind of every child in our public schools, through the child the erring parent may be educated.

LEGISLATIVE REGULATION. From the year 1551 to the present date, laws have been enacted, canons, decrees and anathemas made against the abuse of alcoholic drinking. And it may be asked what have they accomplished? The committee of the House of Lords in England, declare in their report (1879), "that recent legislation has had a beneficial effect throughout the country by producing good order in the streets, by abolishing the worst class of beerhouses, and by improving the character of licensed houses generally. It is not, however, proved that it has diminished the amount of drunkenness." "In certain localities drunkenness has increased among women, but as a rule the respectable class of artisans (both male and female) are becoming more sober, and the apprehensions for drunkenness are becoming more and more confined to the poorer and least educated of the community."

Laws upon the Statute Book are useless unless enforced. To accomplish this object, the laws require to have the approval of a large majority of the community, who must feel that he who breaks or evades them degrades himself. This belief does exist, owing to the fact that a large majority of those who purchase and consume liquor, use it in

moderation, are never intoxicated and do not feel that they are injured by it. They claim that a majority of ninety should not be coerced by a minority of ten, who are too selfish to obey the restraining power Providence has given them.

The object of all laws regarding the use of Alcoholics is to control and lessen the abuse of them. As you increase the cost and the difficulty of obtaining them, so you lessen their consumption. To do this, the price of the license should range from \$500 to \$1000 per year, and in number, should not exceed one for every 500 inhabitants. Happily, individuals—as a rule—are ashamed to be seen in, or going into a bar-room, enter by a side door and drink behind a screen. I would foster this shame, by making it imperative that the bar-room shall face the street, have but one entrance, without blinds or shutters to the windows, enabling passers in the street to see those in the room. Bar-rooms should not be allowed in hotels, the boarder should be required to treat his friend in his room. And they should be prohibited in grocery shops.

The present licensing system is defective in every particular, inasmuch as the number far exceeds the demand, creating such competition that the "publican" cannot afford to refuse credit, and must please his customer by giving him liquor at all hours. The hours of opening are too early. For I hold that under no possible circumstances is it necessary or beneficial for a healthy person to drink liquor before his dinner hour; on the contrary, when the appetite craves the stimulus in the morning the subject is on the road to ruin.

At the risk of being considered "Utopian" I do not hesitate to urge that no liquor should be sold for consumption on the premises at an earlier hour than two o'clock in the day, and then preferably with food. And indeed I might go further and urge that it be not sold for consumption on the premises at any time without food. It may be urged that the purchaser would pay for the food but not eat it, true, but the expense of the performance would have its influence upon the amount of liquor consumed by him. And the food eaten would act as an antidote to the alcohol. Legislation should encourage the use of light wines and beer as containing less alcohol.

THE GOTHENBURG SYSTEM, commends itself to the ratepayers, as all the profit accruing from the public house sale of liquor is appropriated towards paying the debts of the municipality. It is recommended strongly by the committee before referred to, composed of 19 of the leading men in England.

It directs that no individual, either as proprietor or manager shall derive any private gain by the sale of spirits. That the whole public house traffic be transferred to a limited liability company, who shall undertake by their charter to conduct the business solely in the interests of temperance and morality and to pay to the town treasury the whole profit beyond the ordinary interest upon the paid up capital. The capital expended annually was between \$30,000 and \$40,000 and the profits amounted to nearly \$120,000. The number of licenses issued by the company was reduced from 119 to 56. The company had power to fix the hours of closing and prohibited all bar business from 6 p. m. on Saturday to 8 a. m. on Monday. The experiment appears to have worked well, for almost every town in Sweden has adopted it. The reduction in taxation, creates an interest in every man to see the law enforced.

PROHIBITION. As I have already said "temperance enthusiasts" claim more than can be accomplished, indeed they are following a shadow.

But legislators wishing to gain or retain power, may yield to combined pressure and place a prohibitory law upon the Statute Book. Prohibition failed in the Garden of Eden, it has failed in EVERY instance when it has been placed upon the Statute Book, and it must continue to fail until the 90 out of the 100 adults who use alcoholic drinks without abusing them, are educated to the belief that they are committing a sin. This belief does not exist and cannot be enforced by prohibition, upon the principle—take from a man against his will—his freedom of action, he chafes under it, and considers it a hardship. It may be asked, will any reasoning mind believe that with the existing appetite for stimulants, a prohibitory law would or could be enforced. And would not the endeavour lead to disrespect for the law, smuggling, illicit distillation, and the use of other stimulants and narcotics, with all their injurious consequences? Again if such a law existed, would it not pave the way to others equally obnoxious? The Sanitarian finds it difficult to administer laws where no injurious appetite is involved, and where the benefit applies to ALL. It is claimed that a prohibitory law would lessen crime and consequent expense, this is more than doubtful, for the expense of enforcing prohibition would necessarily be large.

The next question for consideration is, what shall be done with the INEBRIATE. Medical treatment has little influence upon him while he

has the ability to indulge his appetite, entreaty is useless,—the tears of a fond wife are of no avail; the finer qualities of his nature are destroyed: the terrible craving for the stimulants has in a great measure taken the possession of his will, and he pursues his course to degradation and death regardless of consequences. How the law should deal with him is a question of great difficulty. The liberty of the subject must be guarded and the community justly claim protection from the violence of his acts.

There are two classes of inebriates, those who voluntarily get drunk, possessing the power to resist, and those who are so far lost that their voluntary power is destroyed. The first should be treated as misdemeanants, the power of the elective franchise withdrawn from them, and in otherways degraded. The involuntary drunkard—if I may so term him—should be treated as a lunatic, and kept in restraint for a period sufficiently long to cure his malady, how long that should be, must depend upon those in charge of him. And when that restraint is enforced for a suitable time, it is often surprising to witness the recovery of mind and body under it. It is true that the inebriate is not in the strict sense of the term a lunatic. The church looks upon him as a sinner, the state as a criminal, while the observing physician knows that he has lost his power of self-control, is ruining his health, shortening his life, squandering his property, and oftentimes—in his delirium—he commits acts of violence against those most dear to him. It may be said that the disease was caused by his own act, true, but that does not absolve the state from responsibility. Is he dangerous to himself and others? he certainly is, therefore he deserves the same care as a lunatic.

While restraint is necessary, I deem it highly improper that the inebriate should be ever associated with lunatics. The Dominion government receiving a large income from the material causing the evil, should be forced to supply and support hospitals for the cure of the disease, such hospitals should stand upon a different footing from others, and it is obviously unfair for the private individual to be taxed for the support of them, beyond that which he willingly pays—consequent upon the tax upon the material producing the disease. Such hospitals should be established in a pleasant district in the country, built in cottage form, so as to receive the different classes and sexes, and so fenced as to prevent escape. Those who cannot pay should be compelled to work at fixed wages, the proceeds of which deducting a given amount for their board should be paid to those dependent upon them.

The present practice of imposing a heavy fine upon the inebriate, is cruel in the extreme, inasmuch as it does not fall upon the offender, but upon the unfortunate wife and family, already beggared by the selfish creature's act. Again the imprisonment imposed has the effect of recouping him for another debauch.

Dr. Norman Kerr claims that 40,000 die yearly from inebriety in London, and that one-third of those would be cured by proper isolation and treatment. I take it for granted that a like proportion die in the large towns of America. If such is the case, the wonder is that legislators hesitate about applying the remedy. Recently those in authority are becoming more educated to the necessity for spending money for sanitary purposes, surely this sanitation should appeal to the sympathy and judgment of all.

Voluntary isolation is valueless, the inebriate—as a rule—will not enter, and when he does, it is for a short period, and to exercise his own judgment about leaving. In a large majority of cases, a year or more is required before the individual can be pronounced well.

I have been unable to learn the laws of your country regarding inebriety. But in the provinces of the Dominion of Canada, the friends of the inebriate are empowered by law to cite him before a judge of the supreme court, who, upon sufficient evidence may incarcerate him for a year in an inebriate asylum. The judge can also appoint a committee to take charge of his estate. This is as it should be. But each province is obliged to furnish and maintain its own asylum. While the large revenue received from the importation and manufacture of the material causing the evil is appropriated by the federal government. Hence the law is only enforced in those provinces where asylums exist.

Now gentlemen, in conclusion, let me say to you, that I hope I have not exceeded the "time limit" of papers before your association, if I have the importance of my subject must plead my excuse.

Believing, as I do, that education and hospital isolation, are the most practical remedial measures for the gigantic evil of intemperance, I appeal to the members of our noble profession, who are ever foremost in philanthropic work, to exercise the power which each and every one of them may possess towards this end. And if anything that has fallen from me has the effect of enlisting their interest in this good cause, I shall feel that I have not spoken in vain.

HIGHER MEDICAL EDUCATION AND ONE QUALIFICATION FOR CANADA.

BY R. MACNEILL, M. D., Stanley, P. E. I.

Read before Maritime Medical Association, July, 1896.

Gentlemen,—One year ago you have chosen me to preside as President of the Prince Edward Island Medical Society. I regret that the choice has not fallen upon abler shoulders, as I am fully conscious of my own inability to discharge the duties of a position that has been eminently filled by my predecessors. I have no brilliant operation to describe, neither have I any very important discovery in therapeutics to present, but I desire briefly to call your attention to our profession and to the requirements that we should aim at, in order to occupy a higher position in this Dominion. Higher medical education and one qualification is necessary to unify and place the profession in Canada upon a common level or basis. Ruskin has said: "The more I think of it, I find this conclusion impressed upon me—the greatest thing a human soul ever does in this world is to see something, and tell what it saw, in a plain way."

Of all professions, this remark will apply very particularly to our profession, for it is our duty and privilege to see what others cannot see, and in order to see it and tell it in a plain way, we must need greater training and higher medical education. The late Sir James Simpson, in an address given at the University of Edinburgh many years ago, stated that when a man received his doctorship, it was customary to present him with a ring, a biretta, an open and a sealed book. The study of these symbols will give us an idea of what our ancient brethren viewed and regarded as true medical life and character. The ring represented the marriage of the physician to medicine—the biretta was given to the graduate to show that he was now a priest. In ancient times, among the Jews, Pagans and Christians, the sacerdotal and medical offices were frequently united—the priest being the physician, who was also the interpreter of the law. The open and sealed book signified the knowledge already obtained, and the other that which he should diligently

seek. Here is a wide and extensive field opened for our observation and how important for us and those whose lives we have to deal with, that we should be able to see "something and record that something in a plain way." Coleridge once said that his library was his wife. I would not for a moment have you suspect that I am suggesting celibacy as the normal condition of the doctor. I believe that like the bishop he should be the husband of one wife, and there are many instances on record where the professional happiness and usefulness of the doctor were largely due to a wife's intelligent help, provided he did not communicate his patients' secrets to her. The physician must be a sealed book, and even the wife, or the nearest and dearest friend on earth, must not obtain his secrets, and in this respect it may be said that his "library is his wife." A heathen writer spoke of the physician as the hand of God, and when the word was made flesh and dwelt among men, one of the frequent manifestations of infinite love and power was in healing the sick. Surely we can claim for our profession a celestial origin, a divine lineage, and that medicine is worthy any man's espousal. The intelligence of the people is limited with regard to medicine and they do not, not even our intelligent legislators, regard medicine as a great study, requiring a high order of intellect, vast research, and long and studious training for its successful practice. The people look upon us as enemies, whose sole object is to fleece and rob them. They regard us as so many mechanics, artisans, or tradesmen, and the preference is frequently given to the quack and pretender, who, by his boldness and want of modesty, is able to make a dominant impression where a true physician fails. We frequently hear of the mistakes and failures of the doctors, but the mistakes of the quacks are never told in our hearing at least. Dr. Clark, in his recollections, states that Wardrop, surgeon to Geo. IV., though one of the most gifted men of his time, failed to attain the highest post in the profession for the following reason, among others: "He was vain, self-opinionated, and scurrilous. He was fond of scandal and condescended to collect and retail the pettiest scraps of gossip. He seemed to know the private history of every member of the profession who had attained to any position." Comment on such a man is not necessary. To elevate the standard of medical education is a duty devolving upon us, and if every province in Canada will do the same, then a physician legalized in one province is legalized all over Canada. We have reciprocity in the Maritime Provinces, which is a step in advance.

The late Dr. Gross said a very good thing, and I cannot do better than quote his words :

“ I should first and foremost exact as an essential pre-requisite, that every youth applying for admission into our ranks should be a gentleman ; secondly, he should possess a respectable amount of brains ; and thirdly, that he should have a good English education, with a sufficient knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages to enable him readily to comprehend and master the technicalities of his profession.”

As the principal and best colleges in Canada and the United States have now a course of four years of nine months in their curriculum of studies, I think our Society should amend our standard and request the profession in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with whom we reciprocate, to do the same. That we have too many medical schools in Canada and the United States is a fact patent to all, and the standard of medicine has doubtless been retarded or kept down through their influence. In Germany the number of medical degrees has greatly decreased since the degree no longer opens the gates of the medical profession—the state examination alone does that. Higher education for the profession seeks as its goal the unity of human learning. Each branch can be thoroughly understood only in the light of all other branches. The best definition of science is that it is the presentation of facts in such a system that each fact throws light upon all the others and is in turn illuminated by all the others. The self-educated man of whom we sometimes hear so much about has never advanced far beyond elementary methods, and doubtless has often been marked out of his orbit by some shallow critical idea which is not born of a comparison with each department of human learning. The traditional course of study in the college takes the individual back to the Latin and Greek languages in order to give him a survey of the origins of his Art and Literature and Science and Jurisprudence. In the study of Greece and Rome we find the embryology of modern civilization and develops in his mind a power of discrimination in regard to the elements which enter the concrete life of the present age.

The common place mind, armed only with elementary instruction, cannot understand the importance of seeing every institution, custom and statue in the light of its evolution. In England or rather Great Britain there is only one door to the practice of medicine. In the United States a diploma is no longer regarded as a legal qualification to practice medicine. In Canada we ought to aim at one qualification.

How is it to be accomplished? Ans.: By Provincial and Federal or Remedial Legislation. Every Medical Council should raise by common consent their curriculum of studies to four yearly sessions of nine months, and insist on a state examination for Canada. The Provincial Legislatures should give their consent by a short statute defining the Provincial qualifications for medical practice, and delegating authority to the federal parliament to petition the Queen for an amendment to the British North American Act, so that the Federal Government could give us a law for Canada. One board of examiners to prepare the papers—the oral and written examination to be held in every province before the councils as now constituted, but the results and valuation of papers made by the central examining board. Such a qualification would be an admission to practice all over Canada—and would secure reciprocity with Great Britain and the United States, aye with the whole world. The profession will be what you make it, and will require of those who practice it that they take a broader view of the matter than we have hitherto done. Provincial Legislation will secure for us powers to legislate on the question at Ottawa, and the profession in each province should make a united presentation of their case to the local government's, and armed with their authority to unite the profession the federal government would be able to secure from the British Parliament the required legislation. Gentlemen, this question is worthy of your serious consideration, and no sectionalism or local jealousies should interfere. Every man who engages in medical practice, owes a duty to himself, to his brethren and his posterity—that it has been his aim to improve the science and leave behind him a name worthy of emulation. No profession can be respected that does not respect itself, and no profession can maintain a high standard without a corresponding higher preliminary and higher medical training. I will conclude by another quotation from one of the most brilliant of modern writers (Ruskin).

“As you know more and more of the created world you will find that the true will of its maker is that its creatures should be happy; that he has made everything beautiful in its time and in its place, and that it is chiefly by the fault of men, when they are allowed the liberty of thwarting his laws that creation groans or travails in pain.”

Correspondence.



62 COLONY ST., ST. JOHN, N. B.

To the Editor of the Maritime Medical News :

DEAR SIR,—The “insinuation” to which the below is a reply is contained in a small book by Dr. Bayard, entitled History of St. John Gen. Public Hospital,—referring to suit brought against the hospital for damages on account of negligence on the part of one of the surgeons. Dr. Bayard says: “The witnesses against the hospital were Dr. Crawford, a disappointed aspirant for the position of Oculist, and another gentleman a member of the staff, and a “paid employe of the institution.”

AN ANSWER TO DR. BAYARD.

DEAR SIR,—A small pamphlet has been placed in my hands, purporting to be a History of the St. John General Public Hospital. I would naturally be somewhat interested in anything pertaining to an institution to which I had been officially connected for a period of five years—three as house surgeon and two as oculist and aurist. It is in reference to my connection with the above institution, as a member of the staff, that the writer Dr. Bayard courteously refers to me as a “disappointed aspirant” for office, and I suppose intended to convey the impression to the public in his pamphlet, that in the suit brought against the hospital for neglect, I must, necessarily, when called upon as a witness, give evidence with an animus against that institution.

I can only say, that I had no such feeling and was very much gratified to have the counsel for the hospital commissioners, Dr. I. Allan Jack, inform me after the trial, that the spirit in which my testimony was given, was very favorably commented upon by those interested in the case.

However this is a matter of no moment and Dr. Bayard is free to enjoy to the fullest extent any unkind feelings he may choose to

cherish, and to obtain from them, all the solace possible to a mind naturally vindictive in its tendency.

I might, however, to put myself right before the public, relate the facts as to my appointment and displacement from the staff of the General Public hospital.

Some four or five years ago, when there were only two oculists in the city, feeling that it would be for the public advantage, and the means of helping myself in a practical way, by affording greater opportunities for the performance of the major operations in eye surgery. I asked the commissioner to appoint me as associate surgeon with the gentleman then on the staff. The idea was looked upon a good one, and by a large majority of the board the appointment was made. Dr. Bayard and a few others strongly opposed the idea, maintaining, in not very classical language, that I was after half of the other gentleman's "pound of pork." I might say that the "pound of pork" was the \$150 annually which the oculist receives for his attendance. The other members of the *staff fall short of this allowance, their "pound" consisting of \$120 yearly, for which princely sum it seems they may henceforth be designated, "Paid employes of the General Public Hospital."* Notwithstanding the opposition named, which manifested itself in a lively manner for a while, by means of special meetings, appointments of committees, etc., the excitement cooled down and my appointment was confirmed.

The opposition, however, gained strength during the year and succeeded in having my name dropped at the next annual meeting in May, and for the following year the work was relegated to a single oculist.

The public will note that although I felt deeply aggrieved at being thus dealt with I never in any public way tried to correct any impression which might fairly be construed to my injury on account of being dropped from the staff after a year's service. I did not hear the slightest hint of any fault with my work during the year, but on the contrary some *whisperings that too much attention was given to the eye and ear department of the service.*

However, I was not thus summarily to be disposed of, but persisted in my contention that the public interest would best be served by having two oculists, and in spite of the same determined opposition I was again appointed a year later. I credit myself with stickatitiveness sufficient to make a fairly good politician.

My enemies, however, were still on my track, and at the end of the year, being called away from the city to be with my brother, who was

seriously ill, I neglected to pay the usual annual \$1 fee necessary to keep my registration good.

When my name came up in May, the month when the staff are usually appointed, a gentleman, one of the commission, rose in his place and objected to my name being voted on, on account of non-registration. As this gentleman (?) was acting registrar, there would have been no difficulty with my nomination, if any gentleman present had tendered the \$1. The majority of the board, who were my friends did not know that I could be put in fighting trim by the payment of the paltry sum of \$1. This was the opportunity for my enemies, who, finding me, as it were placed "hors de combat," obtained a glorious victory (?) Long may they live to rejoice over it.

My solace is in having inaugurated an important reform in the management of the institution, viz., in having two good oculists to attend the poor, suffering from diseases of the eye, instead of one, as heretofore.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, sincerely for the space you have allowed me in your valuable paper, in order to afford me an opportunity of setting myself right in a matter which may be of small interest to the general public, but which I deem simply as an act of justice to myself.

Yours truly,

G. R. J. CRAWFORD.

62 Coburg Street,

St. John, N. B., July 23, 1896.

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It Differs in its Effects from all Analogous Preparations; and it possesses the important properties of being pleasant to the taste, easily borne by the stomach, and harmless under prolonged use.

It has Gained a Wide Reputation, particularly in the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Chronic Bronchitis, and other affections of the respiratory organs. It has also been employed with much success in various nervous and debilitating diseases.

Its Curative Power is largely attributable to its stimulative, tonic and nutritive properties, by means of which the energy of the system is recruited.

Its Action is Prompt; it stimulates the appetite and the digestion, it promotes assimilation, and it enters directly into the circulation with the food products.

The prescribed dose produces a feeling of buoyancy, and removes depression and melancholy; *hence the preparation is of great value in the treatment of mental and nervous affections.* From the fact, also, that it exerts a double tonic influence, and induces a healthy flow of the secretions, its use is indicated in a wide range of diseases.

NOTICE—CAUTION.

The success of Fellows' Syrup of Hypophosphites has tempted certain persons to offer imitations of it for sale. Mr. Fellows, who has examined samples of several of these, FINDS THAT NO TWO OF THEM ARE IDENTICAL, and that all of them differ from the original in composition, in freedom from acid reaction, in susceptibility to the effects of oxygen, when exposed to light or heat, IN THE PROPERTY OF RETAINING THE STRYCHNINE IN SOLUTION, and in the medicinal effects.

As these cheap and inefficient substitutes are frequently dispensed instead of the genuine preparation, physicians are earnestly requested, when prescribing to write "Syr. Hypophos. FELLOWS."

As a further precaution, it is advisable that the Syrup should be ordered in the original bottles; the distinguishing marks which the bottles (and the wrappers surrounding them, bear can then be examined, and the genuineness—or otherwise—of the contents thereby proved.

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We make many hundred cathartic formulas of pills, elixirs, syrups, and fluid extracts; and for that reason, our judgment in giving preference to the MEDICATED FRUIT SYRUP, we feel is worthy of serious consideration from medical men.

The taste is so agreeable that even very young children will take it without objection; the addition of prunes and figs having been made to render the taste agreeable rather than for any decided medical effect. It is composed of Cascara, Senna, Jalap, Ipecac, Podophyllin, Rochelle Salts and Phosphate of Soda, being treated separately, enabling us to deprive the vegetable drugs of the bitter and disagreeable taste, inherent in nearly all of them.

The preparation has been carefully tested, largely and freely in hospital, dispensary and private practice, by a number of physicians (many of whom were interested in determining satisfactorily if the combination deserved the claims urged upon them by us), for quite a year previous to asking attention to it from the medical profession at large, being unwilling to bring it to their attention until we were confident of its merits, and had exhausted every effort to determine by satisfactory results.

The absence of any narcotic or anodyne in the preparation, physicians will recognize is of great moment, as many of the proprietary and empirical cathartic and laxative syrups, put up and advertised for popular use, are said to contain either or both.

It will be found specially useful and acceptable to women, whose delicate constitutions require a gentle and safe remedy during all conditions of health, as well as to children and infants, the dose being regulated to suit all ages and conditions; a few drops can be given safely, and in a few minutes will relieve the flatulence of very young babies, correcting the tendency of recurrence.

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PAGE

MISSING

the most gorgeous three weeks it ever entered into the mind of boy to conceive—unlimited “pop and pork pie,” and a “perfect recovery” thrown in. The full irony of the incident is only realised when it is said that “errors of diet” are given as one of the causes of Pemphigus, and that we are apparently furnished with a particularly gross illustration of the “*similia similibus curantur*” principle. That is, of course, always assuming that the journal recording the story on the faith of a medical correspondent is not itself suffering from an aggravated attack of hocus-pocus—a disease which Quain does not recognise, but which is not rare, though rarely fatal. Whether, as is suggested, “pork pie and pop” will now rank in the new “*Pharmacopœia*” as remedies for Pemphigus foliaceus remains to be seen, but at least it may be assumed that, if they do, it will be under the guise of some Latinised euphemism which will add considerably to the market value. As Launcelot Gobbo said of the “making of Christians” out of Jews, it “will raise the price of hogs,” though—if Quain is still to be trusted—the happy rarity of the disease forbids the further fear that “if we grow all to be pork-eaters we shall not shortly have a rasher on the coals for money.”—*Bradford Observer*.

PRURITUS OF THE VULVA.—After as far as possible eliminating the cause Dr. Morain orders vulvar lotions to be used night and morning of very hot water to which 1 per cent. of chloral, coal tar, or aromatic vinegar has been added. In addition to this, the affected region should be painted with the following solution:—

R Cocaine hydrochloride..... 15 grs.
Distilled water.....150 grs.

Dr. Morain also makes use of the following ointments:—

1. R Menthol..... 45 grs.
Olive Oil..... 15 grs.
Lanolin..... 90 grs.
2. R Potassium bromide,
Salicylic acid.....aa 15 grs.
Glycerole of starch.....300 grs.
Calomel..... 6 grs.
Extract of belladonna..... 3 grs.

He also recommends the following solution, which is to be used as a lotion:—

R Mercury bichloride..... 30 grs.
Alcohol.....150 grs.

Rose-water	600 grs.
Distilled water	14 ozs.

If these remedies fail, says Dr. Morain, electricity, either the continued or the interrupted current, should be tried. In particularly rebellious cases, when the itching resists all kinds of treatment, resection of the tissues of the affected parts should be resorted to.—*New York Medical Journal*.

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of the American Public Health Association will be held at Buffalo, N. Y., September 15-18, 1896.

The Executive Committee have selected the following topics for consideration :

- I. The Pollution of Water-Supplies.
- II. The Disposal of Garbage and Refuse.
- III. Animal Diseases and Animal Food.
- IV. The Nomenclature of Diseases and Forms of Statistics.
- V. Protective Inoculations in Infectious Diseases.
- VI. National Health Legislation.
- VII. The Cause and Prevention of Diphtheria.
- VIII. Causes and Prevention of Infant Mortality.
- IX. Car Sanitation.
- X. The Prevention of the Spread of Yellow Fever.
- XI. Steamship and Steamboat Sanitation.
- XII. The Transportation and Disposal of the Dead.
- XIII. The Use of Alcoholic Drinks from a Sanitary Standpoint.
- XIV. The Centennial of Vaccination.
- XV. The Relation of Forestry to Public Health.
- XVI. Transportation of Diseased Tissues by Mail.
- XVII. River Conservancy Boards of Supervision.

Upon all the above subjects special committees have been appointed. Papers will be received upon other sanitary and hygienic subjects also.

THE USES OF PHOSPHOGLYCERATE OF LIME.—Although discovered by Pelouze in 1846, this salt has not been used therapeutically until last year, when Dr. Robin showed before the Academy of Medicine that it provides the organism with phosphorus in a form identical with that in which it occurs naturally in the organism.

This authority found that it increased the proportion of solids in the urine, giving a powerful stimulus to the function of nutrition, and from

careful clinical observations he deducted that Phosphoglycerate of Lime is useful during Convalescence to restore enfeebled vitality, in Nervous Affections associated with an excessive elimination of phosphates by the urine, and more especially in Neurasthenia.

In Chloro-is, characterized by a lowering of Nitrogenous oxidation, in phosphatic Albuminuria and in the treatment of Cachexiæ of all kinds. Administered in daily doses of five grains in a case of Addison's disease, it overcame the characteristic debility and the patient gained seven pounds in weight during twenty days of treatment.

In Ataxia the phosphoglycerate markedly diminished the excruciating pains and attenuated the other symptoms, and in Gastric Hyperæsthesia, Acute Sciatica and Tic Douloureux it gave most encouraging results.

One of the most remarkable properties of Phosphoglycerate of Lime is its aphrodisiac action on the genital organs, and in debility and decreased vital energy.

This has been especially demonstrated in India where early marriages and excesses before full development, combined with an exclusively vegetable diet into which very little nitrogenous food can enter, leaves natives of India often almost totally impotent at an age where in temperate climates they would be in their full vigor.

The effects of pure Phosphoglycerate of Lime are at the least as energetic as the testicular fluid which only acts in virtue of the organic Phosphorous which it contains. It is therefore more advantageous to employ the Phosphoglycerate of Lime in place of the above liquid which is extremely variable and alterable, especially as it may be taken by the mouth.

Chapoteaut has succeeded in making a pure Phosphoglycerate of Lime, and this may be prescribed in the form of Wine, Syrup or Capsules. The dose is from 3 to 6 grains with meals.—*Ex.*

CARIOUS TEETH AND TUBERCULOSIS.—STARCK (*Munchener med. Wochenschrift*, 1896, No. 7) has investigated the possible relation of carious teeth to tuberculosis, with valuable and suggestive results. Among 113 children with enlarged cervical glands none of the ordinary accepted causes could be found in 41 per cent., and attention was called to the coexistence of carious teeth. The enlarged glands nearly always correspond in position to the affected teeth. In many cases toothache preceded the enlargement, or the caries was evidently primary. When

a number of teeth were affected there was often a cluster of enlarged glands; with caries in the early stages the enlargement was often slight. In two cases positive evidence of the relationship of the diseases was adduced. These were a boy of eighteen years and a girl of fourteen years, both healthy previously and with no family history of tuberculosis. Enlargement of the cervical glands followed toothache. In the first case tubercle-bacilli were found in the carious molar teeth. In the other a suspicious-looking granulation was found between the roots of a molar, which, on section, showed tubercles with giant-cells. The importance of these observations in practice is obvious. Their relation to other forms of infection, especially septic, and to the frequent malignant new growths of the cervical region, would seem well worthy of future investigation.

PHYSICIANS SHOULD WORK LESS.—Dr. Kortright, in the *Brooklyn Medical Journal*, says that arterial sclerosis is a common cause of death in physicians. The lesson that we should learn from our deceased colleagues, he states, is not to work too long. When you find your arterial tension increasing, your temporal artery becoming tortuous, your radial growing hard, especially if you have a little palpitation and pass an increased amount of limpid urine, whatever your years, know that old age is upon you. Henceforth shape your life like one that is old. Curb your ambition. Be content with a small practice. Reduce your expenses. Give up your night work. Decline confinements. Take a long vacation in summer. Retire early. Eat abstemiously. Drink not all. Sell your horse. Take a great deal of moderate exercise in the open air. Watch the functions of the skin. Guard against a chill. Cultivate an even disposition. Study to be quiet.—*Maryland Medical Journal*.

PAIN IN CHRONIC AORTITIS.—DURR (*France Med. et Paris Med.*, 1895, No. 32) points out that the existence of deep-seated retrosternal pain is often the diagnostic symptom of chronic aortitis. If the pain shoots in any direction, the presumption is that the disease has spread beyond the aorta, *e g.*, into the coronary arteries, with symptoms referable to the heart muscle, or into the branches of the aortic arch with pain in the head or arms.

An anxious feeling, unaccompanied by respiratory disturbances, is characteristic of chronic aortitis; but the two absolutely pathognomonic

symptoms are (1) an extension of the cardiac dullness in the second intercostal space to the right of the sternum, indicating an increase in the transverse diameter of the aorta: and (2) a filling up of the right intraclavicular fossa—the result of an increased length of the aorta. Of secondary importance is any change in the character of the second heart sound, for this depends on alternation of the valves, which is not a necessary concomitant to aortitis.—*Medical News.*

THE TREATMENT OF STOMATITIS.—In the *Nord Medical* for August 1st the following formulæ for various forms of stomatitis may be found: *Apthous Stomatitis*.—The ulcerations may be touched with a piece of absorbent cotton saturated with one of the following solutions:

1. Sodium salicylate..... 300 grains;
Distilled water..... 3 ounces.
2. Sodium borate..... 45 grains;
Sodium salicylate..... 75 "
Tincture of myrrh..... 60 "
Syrup of blueberries, } each..... 225 "
Distilled Water, }
3. Sodium chloride..... 90 grains;
Cherry-laurel water..... 225 "
Syrup of althea..... 375 "
Decoction of poppy seeds..... 6 ounces.

The patient should take only boiled or sterilized milk.

Erythematous Stomatitis.—If the inflammation of the mouth is connected with the eruption of the teeth, frequent rinsing and spraying should be practised, especially after meals, with boric-acid water or the following solution:

- Sodium borate..... 30 grains;
Sodium bicarbonate..... 60 "
Distilled water..... 3 ounces.

If the inflammation appears during the course of the infectious disease, the following may be used:

- Boric acid
Potassium chloride, } each..... 30 grains;
Lemon juice..... 225 "
Glycerin..... 300 "

Frequent washings with Vichy water or Vals water are also very good.

Thrush.—The prophylactic treatment consists in careful cleansing the infant's mouth after each nursing with Vichy water. The curative treatment includes the same method of washing, and besides, frequent applications of the following:

Sodium borate,	} each.....	150 grains;
Sodium bicarbonate,		
Glycerin.....		600 “

At the same time it is well to institute gastro-intestinal antiseptis, for which the following potion will be found useful:

Bismuth salicylate,	} each.....	15 grains;
Benzo-naphthol,		
Sodium bicarbonate,		
Syrup of orange flowers.....		300 “
Orange-flower water,	} each.....	900 “
Linden water,		

Ulcerative Membranous Stomatitis.—Potassium chloride is preferable in this form of stomatitis; it may be prescribed internally and externally. For the former, thirty grains a day may be given to a child from five to ten years of age, as follows:

Potassium chloride.....	30 grains;
Syrup of raspberries.....	300 “
Julep of gum.....	2.5 ounces.

A dessert-spoonful of this mixture is to be given every two hours. The following solution may be used for lavage and irrigation:

Potassium chloride.....	75 grains;
Honey of roses.....	420 “
Distilled water.....	6 ounces.

To paint upon the ulcerations, the following is recommended:

Potassium chloride.....	60 grains;
Rose honey.....	150 “
Glycerin.....	300 “

In rebellious cases tincture of iodine may be used in the following manner:

Tincture of iodine.....	150 grains;
Glycerin.....	300 “

Permanganate of potassium may be used as follows:

Potassium permanganate.....	8 grains;
Distilled water.....	2 ounces.

Gangrenous Stomatitis.—The local treatment consists in preventing

the progress of the disease and in disinfecting the gangrenous region. The diseased parts should be cauterized with Paquelin's cautery, or with acid nitrate of mercury, or with pure nitric acid; in doing this the tongue and the teeth should be protected as much as possible. After cauterization, dry chloride or calcium may be applied and allowed to remain on for a few minutes and afterward thoroughly washed off. This treatment should be practised twice a day, also bathing three times a day with a strong decoction of cinchona. It is well too, to touch the diseased parts several times a day with the following preparation:

Naphthol	150 grains.
Sodium sulphoricinate	275 ounces.

During the interval the mouth should be washed out with water to which the following solution has been added in the proportion of a teaspoonful to a glass of water:

Sodium bicarbonate,	} each.....	15 grains;
Saccharin,		
Salicylic Acid.....		60 "
Alcohol		6 ounces.

It is very important to continue general treatment; the patient's strength should be kept up by the employment of nourishing food, such as milk, cream, meat soups, concentrated bouillon, and wine; extract of cinchona and cognac may also be used.—*New York Medical Journal.*

RUPTURE OF THE UTERUS.—In the *Munchener medicinische Wochenschrift*, 1896, No. 25, BURGER reports a remarkable case of rupture of the uterus in cross-birth. As the patient could not be taken to an hospital and assistance could not be obtained, Burger could do nothing more than make version and extract the foetus. After delivering the placenta the mother's intestines protruded through the rent in the uterus. These were replaced and the hand kept in the uterus until it contracted firmly. The rent in the uterus was tightly closed by its firm contraction, and but little hemorrhage followed.

The patient did well until the sixth day, when her husband, while drunk, had intercourse with her violently. She recovered, however, from this and was delivered of a living child nine months and six days after. The placenta was adherent to the site of the former rupture and was delivered manually. A year later the patient died of hemorrhage from adherent placenta before the midwife in attendance could summon a physician.

CURIOUS MEDICAL FEATURES OF A CAMPAIGN.—One of the most curious features of the Chitral campaign, according to an Indian paper, was an extraordinary prevalence of toothache among the officers. The matter is receiving the serious attention of the medical authorities, and it is hoped that some very interesting statistical results will be gained from the careful investigation which is now taking place. The epidemic first made its appearance after the active operations were over and the various regiments had received orders to stand fast for the summer, and reached its most violent form just before the long-expected order to partially evacuate the country had arrived. During this period a large number of the officers of the force were affected with it. Sir Robert Low, it is said, has advised government on all future expeditions to appoint a regular staff of dentists under a Brigade-Dentist Major-General.

HIP-JOINT DISEASE.—In young children the very beginnings of hip-joint disease are announced by muscular twitchings during sleep; added to this, the subject is irritable, the secretions are disturbed, the appetite fictitious, the muscles flabby and shrunken away on the affected side, the countenance pale, and the signs of illness are very apparent. Soon follows a little limp in the gait, attended with pains in the knee or ankle-joint—not often in the hip. These pains are at first very slight and may escape attention unless the medical attendant is very alert. A rise of temperature will be sometimes noticed in the evening, and it may be continuous; toward the last of this stage more or less spasm of the muscles will have supervened.—*Med. Arena.*

UTERINE CANCER.—The great error so often made is in expecting to find these women emaciated with marked cachexia, hemorrhage, pain, stinking discharges, etc., as evidences of the presence of malignant diseases. Pain comes on late and is often absent. Bleeding of a profuse character is rare, especially very early in the history of the disease. Foul, watery discharges, so often alluded to, are sometimes absent. An irregular flow between the periods is the symptom most often noticed, and is an important one, especially if occurring in a woman past the climacteric, and following sexual intercourse. Many cases are much complicated, and the dangers from the operation much increased from adhesions, the result of delays and tinkering.—*Internat. Jour. Surgery.*

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