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# MEDICAL CRITICISM.

No. 9.

MARCH 10, 1883.

2ND SERIES.

A Weekly Sheet, by DAVID EDWARDS, published on Saturday, and sold at Patterson & Co.'s No. 4 Adelaide Street West, Toronto.

PRICE, \$1.50—Copies of any single number can be had, in quantities, at 15c. per dozen.

## COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

In times of *political* danger, committees of public safety have from time to time been organized by such citizens as deemed their property or their lives to be imperilled. There are not a few reflecting persons, who in view of the present rate of mortality, and the present amount of sickness and suffering which prevail in civilized communities, consider that the time has arrived to constitute similar committees in order to collect evidence on the subject of medical and surgical malpractice. One such committee is already organized in this city, and we shall probably soon be in a position to publish some of the results of its operations.

### THE DANCE OF DEATH, V. DANCING A HORNPIPE.

A certain physician of this city, lately illustrated his lack of knowledge of the nature of the case he was treating, by predicting that the lady would soon be dancing a hornpipe ; that night his patient's dance was the dance of death.

### THE DEATH OF THE DUKE OF KENT, AND ITS CAUSE.

“ On Thursday sennight, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent took a long walk with Captain Conroy in the environs of Sidmouth, and returned to the cottage with his boots thoroughly soaked. Captain Conroy, on reaching home, urged the Duke to change his boots and stockings ; but the suggestion was unheeded until he dressed for dinner, being attracted by the smiles of his infant Princess (Her present Majesty), with whom he sat for a considerable time in fond parental endearment. Before night, however, he felt a sensation of cold and hoarseness, when Dr. Wilson prescribed a draught composed of calomel (submuriate of mercury) and Dr. James' powders. This His Royal Highness, confiding in his strength, and from an aversion to medicine, declined to take, and remarked that he had little doubt but a night's rest, would carry off every uneasy symptom. In the morning, the symptoms of fever were increased, and though His Royal Highness lost one hundred and twenty ounces of blood from the arms and by cupping, he died on Sunday forenoon ; Dr. Maton was summoned from London, for consultation. I well remember to have heard, at his house in Spring Gardens, that able physician had accomplished man talk over with my father the particulars of the Duke's case, and to have listened to Dr. Maton's bitter regret at its fatal issue. One of his remarks was “ Perhaps all was done that could be done. Indeed that is the view which *must now be taken* ; but if I had been in attendance on him in the early stage of his disorder, I think I should have bled him more freely. His strength was so great, his constitution so unimpaired by excess, that he would have borne more depletion ; at all events, I would have risked it. The result might have been the same, but I should have hazarded extreme depletion.”—*Life of the Duke of Kent, by the Rev. Erskine Neale.*

## ORANGE PEEL.

We fail to recognize the need of encouraging surgical skill by scattering orange peel on the side-walks ; and we consider that the sooner that practice is rendered penal, the better.

Philosophical apple women bid their customers "taste and try," and why should not philosophical doctors act on a similar principle? We know one who adopts this principle and *that* no doubt, because he believes in it, but it would require a lively imagination to depict a doctor advocating the tasting of his mercurial pills, &c., for he *knows* they would fail to commend their merits to his patient, unless the said patient should happen to appreciate having his body converted into a barometer, and should find it convenient to be able to predict approaching storms. He who has *faith* in his medicine, says in effect "taste and try," by commending a few remedies to the public, in the form of a little pamphlet ; as he presents them alphabetically, we shall transfer them to our pages, in similar order, and commence with *Aconitum Nap.*, as a remedy in the case of Fevers and Inflammation, particularly if the skin be hot and dry, and the pulse quick and full. It is therefore frequently required in Feverish Colds, Bronchitis, Croup, Measles, Pleurisy, and Inflammation of the Lungs. It will frequently relieve palpitation of the heart, and the injurious consequences of sudden fright also. If only one or two doses are likely to be required, 2 or 3 drops may be taken on a small piece of sugar, or in a teaspoonful of fresh water ; but where the disease is of a more serious nature, and the medicine will, in all probability, have to continue for some days, it is better to put 10 or 12 drops of the appropriate remedy into a tumbler of fresh water day by day, and after carefully stirring it, to administer a mouthful every hour or two, so as to finish the tumbler by bedtime, or during the 24 hours.

Should two remedies be required, prepare each tumbler separately, as above-mentioned, using different spoons for each tumbler, and let the patient take a mouthful every hour or two from the tumblers alternately. Should a child object to drink much water, the medicine may be prepared in teacups or wineglasses, and one or two spoonfuls given at a dose ; in the case of infants, the medicine may be dropped on a little powdered sugar, and a pinch placed dry on the tongue as often as required.

## GOUT.

" On the 30th March, 1875 (says Dr. John W. Foakes, of Anglican London) a clergyman from one of the West Indian Islands placed himself in my hands, in consequence of having derived some benefit from the advice contained in my book, and which he had followed before coming to England. He had been a sufferer from attacks of Gout for more than twenty years ; at first, in acute, but for the last ten years in more chronic form ; indeed, latterly his health had completely given way under the disease *and its treatment*, nearly all his joints being so tender that he could with difficulty walk. He said the disease, he felt, was gradually sapping all his nervous energy. He was therefore resolved to come to England to try the effect of rest and change of climate. His case was one of pure Gout, *considerably complicated by the consequences of the medicines he had taken* ; and I told him I could not undertake to obtain permanent relief except under a continuous treatment of some months. To this he assented and I commenced to treat him. On the 28th April he walked three miles ; subsequently he had two acute attacks during my treatment, but on the 14th Feb. 1876, was quite well and able to return to his home and duty. In June of last year (1877) he wrote me as follows :

—“ For sixteen months now I have had no *attack*. When I feel Gouty symptoms, a dose of Rhubarb and Magnesia removes them. . . . This week I have ridden on horseback longer distances than I have done for years ; day before yesterday, thirty-six miles. I now do more work than most men. I have six churches under my care, at distances of eighteen, sixteen, twelve, and ten miles from my residence. Besides this, I have ten other minor stations which I have to visit. I have to keep six animals for my work, but the more I work the better I feel.” The proportion of the above-named ingredients is three parts of Magnesia to one of Rhubarb.

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### FACTS ABOUT ANIMALS.

The Gazette des Hospitiaux publishes the following facts about animals :

“ Dogs,” (says the writer,) “ get rid of their parasites by means of dust, mud or wet clay. The swallow will throw one little one out of her nest (if the fledging be covered with vermin) in order to save the rest from contamination.

“ When animals have fever they invariably diet themselves, take plenty of rest, keep in the shade and in cool places, drink water, and even plunge into it several times a day, when they can.

“ If a dog loses his appetite, he eats dandelions, which serve him as an emetic. Cats eat grass for the same reason. Sheep and cows always look for certain herbs when they feel sick. Dogs or horses swallow any fatty substances they can get hold of, whenever they need purgative medicine. If an animal be afflicted with chronic rheumatism, it keeps the afflicted limb turned to the sun as much as possible.

“ In the treatment of wounds the instinct of animals is equally wonderful.

“ The soldier-ants have regular ambulance-corps, well organized. When Latreille cut off the antennæ of a red ant, other ants came to his assistance, and covered the wounds with a transparent liquid secreted in their mouths.

“ A chimpanzee when wounded, first checks the flow of blood by pressing the wound with his hand, and then dresses it with leaves or roots of grass. If the limb of a wounded animal be hanging by a shred, the creature completes the amputation with its teeth.

“ A dog struck by a viper kept plunging his wounded nose for many days into a running stream. He got well. A hunting dog that had been crushed by a carriage dragged himself into a bed of a shallow stream and lay down in the water during three whole weeks—although it was winter. They carried him his food there. He got completely well.

“ A terrier-dog that had a lesion in his right eye hid away from the light and for two days kept licking the sole of his front right paw, and pressing his eye against the cool wet surface. No oculist could have treated the eye better, and many would not have done so well.”

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### TYPHOID FEVER.

A sufferer from the above-named disorder, who was allowed to remain in a state of delirium for six weeks, states that his professional treatment might be described by the word “starvation” ; another medical man was called in, who ordered nourishing diet for his patient, and the sick man began to recover thenceforth.

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### ASYLUM REVELATIONS.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 27.—In Dix-Mont Asylum for the Insane, an investigation took place to-day ; Mary Coulter, a former attendant, testified that she had seen

Mrs. McCoslin, an attendant, beat a woman with keys, kneel on the breast of another and taunt a third with having murdered her husband, in order to get amusement out of the patients.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—Mary Hoyt, daughter of the late Jesse Hoyt, was committed to an Asylum for the Insane, near Philadelphia, in June last. Several physicians certified to her insanity, but the certificate was never filed, and now, several physicians, after examination, pronounce Miss Hoyt sane. She alleges that there was an object in keeping her from her father's death-bed; she will contest her father's will on the ground of undue influence having been exercised in relation to it.

STAUNTON, Va., Feb. 27.—Another victim of the asylum poisoning has died, making six. Among the patients are several "Guiteaus," who conceive that they are commissioned by God to kill men whenever they can. They are intelligent and apparently natural on every other subject.


## APOPLEXY.

*From an Hydropathic Standpoint.*

This disease is one of the results of a constipated, obstructed, plethoric, and overburdened body. Excessive alimentation, with defective depuration (cleansing) and some internal visceral obstructions or compressions, are the obvious conditions on which the apoplectic fit depends; hence, we rarely witness the disease except among the fully-fed, the corpulent or obese, and the gross or high livers; and even then we almost invariably find inattention to the functions of the excreting organs or outlet of the body among the predisposing circumstances. In medical books we find a world of confusion on the whole subject. Everything relating to its causes, seat, nature, and proper treatment is there hypothetical, unsettled, contradictory, a mountain mass of scientific absurdity, and erudite inconsistency.

**SYMPTOMS.**—Sometimes apoplexy comes on suddenly without the least premonition; sometimes the attack is preceded by a sudden paralysis of one side of the body, and sometimes it commences with acute headache, nausea, faintness, noises in the ears, confused vision, incoherence of ideas, loss of memory, and numbness of the extremities, &c.

**TREATMENT.**—The first thing to be done is to remove the patient to a cool, spacious, well-ventilated apartment, to loosen the clothing about the chest, remove everything from the neck, and place him in an easy and nearly upright position. Pour cold water on the head, apply warm water, and warm cloths to the feet, and occasionally hot fomentations to the abdomen. If the fit continue, the cold stream may be applied to the head, for a quarter to half an hour, several times a day; the cold wet gillule to the abdomen should succeed the hot fomentation, which may be repeated every two or three hours, for ten or fifteen minutes at a time; friction of the lower extremities with a cold wet cloth, followed by a warm flannel or dry hand-rubbing, is a valuable auxiliary. No attempt should be made to give nourishment, until the breathing is materially relieved, and then only moderate draughts of cold water should be administered. Preventive medication consists in the use of a daily cold bath, simple diet, abstemiously taken, regular hours for meals, laboring, and resting; a careful avoidance of all violent exertion, mental excitement, &c.

 In the event of any irregularity occurring in the delivery of this publication, the Editor requests that he may be addressed respecting it.

"PULPIT CRITICISM," by the same author, sold at PATTERSON & Co.'s, 4 Adelaide Street West. Price \$1.50 per annum.