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MEDICAL CRITICISM.

No. 2.

JANUARY 20, 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.

The Emperor Nero is said to have occupied himself in fiddling while Rome was burning; modern society appears to occupy itself after a similar fashion, in relation to the sickness and death which are ever stalking abroad among its nearest and dearest; it allows its several parliaments to commit irresponsible power to men who prove themselves utterly incompetent to grapple with the ills which flesh inherits, and who at the same time are so enslaved by their traditional crazes, that if anyone attempt to enlighten them, they echo the argument of those teachers of old, which took the form of "Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us?"

While the Rev. Mr. Talmage was recently availing himself of a period of relaxation, he considered it necessary to consult a doctor. The doctor did not know who his patient was; a long consultation therefore resulted in the rev. gentleman being gravely advised to *exercise his lungs*.

ELECTRICITY SKILFULLY APPLIED.

A gentleman, now residing in Toronto, was at one time, a sufferer from organic disease of the heart, from paralysis, and from chronic dyspepsia; he not only put the supposed skill of the medical faculty of Toronto to the test, in relation to his disordered condition, but went from thence successively to Montreal, to Anglican London, to Paris*, to Boston, U.S., to New York, and to Chicago, in quest of men who might afford him relief. The only result of this gentleman's travels was that he "suffered many things of many physicians," and was so far from being "bettered," that he returned to this continent in order to die; he had found his way to Burlington, Iowa, and while at an hotel, a seedy looking man approached him, and told him what was the matter with him, and stated that he could effect some amendment in his case in eight days, and could cure him in three weeks. This person may be styled "a quack," if it be any satisfaction to apply such a designation to him, but he disclosed both his theory and practice to the sufferer, and fulfilled his undertaking to such an extent, that his patient was greatly improved in three weeks, and ultimately recovered; he taught him also to benefit others in like manner. It is but right to add that the sufferer had previously prayed that he might speedily die, or that he might discover a means of recovery.

* In this city, the sufferer was in such a state of despondency that he did not seek medical aid.

An old resident of Toronto states that of fifty persons who, in his recollection, sold liquor on King Street, not one of them has at the present time, a lineal descendant.


MATTERS OF COURSE.

When a citizen (prominent or otherwise) is cut off, by congestion of the lungs, or by any other malady, his neighbours pull a grave face at the tidings; press and pulpit unite to eulogize him, he was necessarily an embodiment of all the virtues; "*the best advice*" was at hand, the doctors were superlatively attentive, and not less kind, the ministers and they unite their testimony that his time had come (this latter circumstance is but too apt to be a sequence of the coming of the doctor); pious friends are satisfied that the deceased's departure is traceable to the will of Providence; scores of vehicles filled with smoking mourners attend his remains to the grave; all the above-named persons form their estimate of his property; such positions of importance as he may have held, will be swiftly filled, and himself scarcely less swiftly forgotten; the last thought that is likely to suggest itself to most persons is—whether the malady, or perhaps we should say *the means* which carried him off, might not have been prevented; whether for instance, there are not well recognized means for dealing successfully with such a disorder as congestion of the lungs, and how it comes to pass that a body of medical monopolists fail to recognize any such means.

MALPRACTICE.


A woman of this city has been treated by a ladies' favorite physician, for what the doctor pronounced to be ulceration; no formation of matter had taken place, and there were no other symptoms of ulceration in the case; the good woman however had to pay thirty dollars or more, for learning what was not the matter with her.

HIVES.

 A girl of fourteen, who was suffering from hives, was treated lately by an amateur, in the following manner:—He recommended her to be bathed with tepid water, and as the eruption developed itself, he used that which would produce a similar eruption, viz.: *urtica urens*, or stinging nettle; the girl was well the next day.

in Toronto

ERYSIPELAS.

 *at Memphis*
A child was being duly painted with iodine, according to the requirement of orthodox practitioners, and as the combined result of the disorder and the treatment of the doctor, was given up by that gentleman; our friend the amateur went to the rescue, and as the result of his visit, the iodine was washed off the inflamed thigh of the child, and the part was powdered over with buck-wheat flour; after the lapse of about three days, the amateur was surprised to see the erysipelas re-appear in the child's foot; the solution of the mystery was afforded by the circumstance of the child's nurse being a staunch devotee of orthodoxy, and having as a consequence stealthily repainted the thigh and so driven the disorder to the foot; the nurse's errors having been corrected, the buck-wheat flour was re-applied, belladonna and *apis mellifica* were administered to the child, a temperature of about sixty degrees was maintained, and the child's life was saved. It is hardly necessary to add that orthodox learn nothing from the circumstance.

A woman has died at Chester, Pa., from the effect of the treatment of one S. Gast, a travelling cancer-doctor. Gast has in consequence taken his departure. What a dearth of doctors would ensue, were the licensed slaughterers to act according to the intuition of this unlicensed gentleman.

EXTRACTS FROM A TRACT

ENTITLED REMARKS ON "THE MISTAKES OF MOSES."

By H. L. Hastings.

According to the statistics of Frankfort, Germany, the death-rate of infants under four years of age is, among the Gentiles 241 per thousand, among the Jews 129 per thousand. Passing to the other extreme of life, we find that between the ages of sixty and seventy-nine, of a thousand Gentiles two hundred and eleven die; while during the same period, of a thousand Jews, three hundred and seventy-two deaths occur. Hence it appears that while the number of premature deaths among the Gentiles is vastly larger than among the Jews, the number of those who die at "a good old age" is much greater among the Jews than it is among the Gentiles.

These computations are borne out by the ecclesiastical registers of Prussia, between the years 1823 and 1841. From these it appears that there died on an average, annually, one in thirty-four Gentiles, and only one in forty-six Jews. Of the children born among the Gentiles, forty-four and a half per cent. reached the age of fourteen, but among the Jews fifty per cent. reached that age. Among the Gentiles only twelve per cent. reached the age of seventy, while among the Jews, twenty per cent. reached that age. These calculations accord with the statements of Dr. Pressel, and show that the learned French physician, Dr. M. Levy, is abundantly justified in concluding that while the average term of life among the Gentiles is twenty-six years, among the Jews it is thirty-seven.

Hence, while the beer-drinking, whiskey-loving, pork-eating Gentile dies, on an average, at the age of twenty-six, the Jew, giving heed to the teachings of Moses, adds nearly one-half to the length of his days, and has an average of eleven years longer to enjoy life. Is it any wonder that, as a rule, the Jews excel the Gentiles in whatever they undertake?

Dr. Gibbon, an health officer of London, reports that the life of the Jew in London is, on an average, twice as long as the life of the Gentile. The medical officer of one of their large schools has remarked that Jewish children do not die in anything like the same ratio as the children of the Gentiles. In the district of Whitechapel, the medical officer states that on the north side of High Street, which is occupied by Jews, the average death-rate is twenty-seven per thousand; while on the south side, occupied by English and Irish, the average death-rate is forty-three per thousand.

 AGUE AND FEVER.

The Physio-Medical practitioner* recognises *fever* as an effort of nature to regain its equilibrium; he therefore would never attempt to subdue it, by depriving the sufferer of the power to produce it, but would give his aid in order to remove obstructions to its free and universal action.

The *direct* cause of fever is the vital force alone; but the indirect causes of all fever, or rather the hinderances to vital action, may be anything that can prevent perspiration, and at the same time so paralyse the vital organs, as to check determination to the surface. Among these causes, there is nothing so effectual as a sudden and extensive loss of heat; and the circumstances which produce this derangement are chiefly two, sudden changes of temperature from dry and hot, to moist and cold, and sudden transitions of the person, from brisk exercise to almost total cessation of action.—For example:

1. If a person be suddenly removed from the heat of the noon-day sun, to a deep cave, where the water is trickling through every crevice, and be caused to spend

some time there, and this be often repeated, the balance of his bodily temperature will be so destroyed as entirely to deprive him of the power of recovering it, or if he suffer the damp air of evening to reach him when in the same clothing that he wore during the heat of the day, he will soon lose the balance of his temperature.

2' If he take exercise in a damp atmosphere, till he is overcome with fatigue, and then sit down under such conditions till all the heat generated by his exercise is exhausted, the result will be the same. If this be done in a dry, or cold and dry atmosphere, the result is more commonly rheumatism, than chills and fever.

From the facts above stated, there is no doubt that intermittent fever is excited, *not by malaria, produced by the decomposition of animal or vegetable substances, (a time-honored scape-goat for professional ignorance) but by sudden transitions from heat to cold, which are always rendered more injurious by moisture.*

The suggestions made by the effort of nature, styled fever, are to assist her in removing obstructions. The treatment would be by means which cannot do violence to the system, even in a healthy state; to aid nature in restoring the equilibrium. These means must always be varied to suit, not the name of the derangement, but the conditions which are found to exist in each case. There is no specific remedy for chills and fever. Cases have been cured with common salt, in which cases quinine and many other anti-periodic agents had totally failed.

The writer of the above, (who apparently "knows his business"), cured himself and several others, of ague-chills, with common salt, but in this he was guided by the symptoms which indicated the need of an alkali in the several cases. — ED.

* The Physio-Medical School of Medicine, as the title implies, aspires to be guided by nature, in its practice.

AGUE AND FEVER.

According to the late Dr. Trall, Hydropath.

"Ague and fever seem to be especially connected with congestion and functional derangement of the liver and spleen. Enlarged livers and spleens, styled ague-cakes, are very common results of intermittents, although they are not unfrequently detected after protracted or repeated remittents. This disease is common to miasmatic localities; to new countries, where decomposing vegetation abounds; and to places where dense foliage and stagnant water fill the air with carbonaceous and hydrogenous gases; the bad living which helps to produce it, and the huge doses of calomel, arsenic, and quinine, given to cure it, result in a large proportion of those who "westward follow the star of empire," finding their constitutions irretrievably ruined.

Under the head of "Peculiarities of treatment," the Doctor observes, that "The bowels should be well cleansed with tepid injections, and when there is much nausea, or bitter taste in the mouth, a warm water emetic is advisable. The wet sheet, or the immersion, must be resorted to during the hot stage, and the pouring head-bath when there is great determination to the brain, with severe headache. During the intermission, a hot bath, followed by the cold dripping sheet, or cold shower, will generally soothe the nervous system and mitigate the severity of the succeeding paroxysm. As the liver is always in a state of greater or less congestion, the abdominal bandage should be worn constantly. The best diet is wheat-meal bread, cracked-wheat mush, with very little milk and sugar, a moderate quantity of the milder vegetables, and the free use of ripe, sweet apples, either baked or boiled. Grapes, tomatoes, prunes, and dried fruits are not objectionable. The crust of bread, and dry toast, or hard crackers, are excellent to improve the salivary and gastric secretions. Water should be taken freely, exercise should be moderate; over-exertion during the intermission always aggravates the subsequent paroxysms."