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MEDICAL CRITICISM.

No. 1.

JANUARY 13, 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 circumstance of the Editor having been obliged to change his printer, entailed upon him so much extra labour during the first week of the year, that he is under the necessity of asking the indulgence of his readers, in relation to the postponement of the issue of the CRITICISM until the present date.

They who read the first number of this series of criticisms will remember the undertaking on the part of the Editor, to present alternative modes of treatment, from time to time, in order that his readers might divine to some extent, in what manner they might expect to be treated on sending for a doctor of this or that particular school. In the present number, the first of a new series, they will perceive that the Editor's undertaking has assumed the definite form promised in No. 17; in adopting the alphabetical arrangement of disorders according to the plan of the Rev. John Wesley, we commence also with his suggested modes of treating them.

THE LATE PRESIDENT GARFIELD.

A physician of this city recently met the surgeon who was the first to see the late President, after he was shot; this gentleman stated to the physician, that he decided at that time as to the course the bullet had taken; he also stated that from the appearance of the bone (which has been preserved in order that future generations may be suitably impressed with the idea of the intricacy of the case), he has no doubt that it has been gouged. Mr. J. M. Jenkin, late Surgeon 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry, in an article in the *Eclectic Medical Journal*, appears to us to write like "a man who knows his business"—he observes, "The whereabouts of a ball which has passed out of sight, is to be judged with rational reference to any recognized disturbance, the beginning of which is co-incident with the injury. If the kidneys did not operate, we might suppose it was there; if there were hepatic derangement, we could imagine it in the liver; if the stomach had failed, that would tell the latest news of the bullet. What function is deranged in the President's system? Only the functions of the great sciatic nerve. *Mr. Garfield's eloquent foot has been crying out for several days that the ball is on the sciatic nerve, and the dull surgeons are maundering about his liver.*"

INVALID PIGS, AND HOW TO CURE THEM.

The lovers of pork in Toronto, will be interested to learn the efficacy of salt, in relation to sick swine; there is a pig-feeding establishment in the neighbourhood of the city which discharges the two-fold function of hotel and hospital; when sick, the swine are tended with the most assiduous care, and in the event of their maladies becoming chronic, salt is applied to them externally and internally; another mineral (iron) is however *first* applied to the invalids' throats.

We understand that deceased dogs, with which the pigs of this establishment were wont to be regaled, are now put beyond their reach, so that the sickness above referred to, may perhaps be traceable to blighted hopes. Alas! Alas! the dog-days are over—for the present.

SELF-PRESERVATION, THE FIRST LAW OF NATURE.

We hear of a physician of this city who, on being called to set a broken wrist, required a written undertaking from the husband of the sufferer (before he attempted to set the wrist) that he should not be prosecuted in the event of blundering over the business.

This wily gentleman's fears are the more remarkable, in view of the well-known fact that the members of the medical profession undertake to swear by each other, come what may.

In view of several cases of malpractice which have occurred in this neighbourhood of late, we think it is time the public had a better guarantee of efficiency on the part of surgeons, than they at present possess.

THE VACCINATION DISASTER AT NORWICH, ENGLAND.

From a Government Report of the Public Inquiry into the cause of death of four children, and injury to five others, vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator of Norwich, in June last, we gather that, of nine perfectly healthy children, vaccinated by the above-named officer, four died of erysipelas and five were suffering from constitutional disease, in less than a month afterwards. Evidence has been given at a meeting held in Norwich, to the effect that pure lymph can convey erysipelas; and, according to the testimony of one medical man, erysipelas is a necessary accompaniment of true cow-pox.

Mr. Baker, barrister, moved a resolution at the above-named meeting, to the following effect—"That the facts and evidence elicited at the Norwich Vaccination Inquiry, and set forth in the Parliamentary Return, No. 385, Session 1882, having demonstrated beyond question the dangers inherent in Vaccination: *Resolved*, that the enforcement of the practice is a tyranny which ought to be resisted by every lawful means." The resolution was seconded and carried, with but one dissident.

Several other cases of death and injury from Vaccination have since occurred at Norwich, Derby, Nottingham, and other places.

NOVEL REMEDY OF AN UNPAID AMATEUR.

A young woman known to the writer, was sufficiently unwell to seek medical advice; a friend observed that she was decidedly the worse for the medicine she was taking; he advised her to throw it away; she did so, and began to recover from that time; she is, at the present time, quite well.

BRONCHIAL AFFECTION,

Or, according to an M. D.—Influenza.

A resident in this city, who has been suffering from the above-named disorder, was being blistered on the chest, in the approved fashion; but, like one of whom we read, who had "suffered many things of many physicians, was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse;" a friend, who, is not an M. D., urged her to apply hot water; owing to the tender condition of her chest, it was necessary to reduce the heat of the water, until it became cold; this application was continued for two days. The above-named friend, also used tinctures of copaiva and hydrastis, homeopathically prepared; in two days, the patient was well, and on the third day, she was walking out.

INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.

A child, less than a year old, who was suffering from the above-named disorder, had been given up by an M. D., when the aid of the amateur, who succeeded in the two previous cases, was sought; in the present case, the tincture of camomilla and of veratrum were administered so effectually that the child was well in twelve hours.

AN UGLY WOUND HEALED.

A friend of the writer was chopping ice, on the side-walk, on the 23rd of Dec. last; he struck his shin-bone with the head of the axe; in an hour afterwards, an aneurism (or blood-sack) was formed on the wounded part; by the continuous application of a magnetic hand, to the wound, for fifteen minutes, the blood-sack became scattered; magnetic oil was forthwith applied to the wound, and the result has been that on the 4th inst., when the writer saw it, there was scarcely any discoloration of the limb visible, except about seven inches below the wounded part. The use of the knife, which would have been the practice of a surgeon, in such a case, is generally attended with danger. The wounded man was only laid by on the 24th ult.

EXTRACTS FROM A TRACT

ENTITLED REMARKS ON "THE MISTAKES OF MOSES."

By H. L. Hastings.

The investigators of "the mistakes of Moses," might well consider the system of sanitary science embodied in Moses' law, so unlike anything which the world had ever seen, and which the civilization of the nineteenth century is still too ignorant to appreciate, though observers begin to note its results as indicated in the superior health and longevity of the Jewish nation.

If we take a thousand Jews and a thousand Gentiles, as a basis of computation, we may divide them into four parts; one-fourth of them comprehending those who die in early years; one-half, those who attain to middle life; and one-fourth, those who reach advanced age. Among the Gentiles, the first two hundred and fifty who die, will reach an average age of six years and eleven months; while among the Jews, the first 250 will die at the average age of twenty-eight years and three months. Among the Gentiles, that half who attain to middle age, will die at an average age of twenty-six years and six months; among the Jews the same portion will reach an average age of fifty-three years and one month. Among the Gentiles, the last 250 will die at an average age of fifty-nine years and ten months; while the same class among the Jews will live to an average age of 71 years.

Not only is the death-rate less among "the scattered nation," but the birth-rate is greater. Dr. Pressel states that, in his district, the number of Jewish births reached an annual average of fifty-five per thousand, while the Gentile births were only thirty-eight per thousand; and the ecclesiastical registers of Prussia also show, that among one hundred thousand Gentile births one hundred and forty-three children were still born, while among an equal number of Jews the still-born were only eighty-nine.

Carefully prepared statistics show that the infantile mortality is nearly twice as great among the Gentiles as among the Jews; and that while among the adult Gentiles the period of the greatest frequency of deaths comes between the ages of twenty and twenty-four, during which time, 6.2 per cent., or sixty-two out of every thousand, die, among adult Jews the period of the greatest mortality occurs between the ages of seventy and seventy-four; during which time 11.4 per cent., or one hundred and fourteen out of every thousand die. The next largest death-rate among the Gentiles, falls between the years of sixty-five and sixty-nine, when out of the little remnant of the original thousand taken as a basis of computation, sixty persons, or six per cent., die; while from the much larger body of Jews yet remaining, an average of seventy-two die during the corresponding period.

Thus it appears that of the Gentiles, far more die in early life, while of the Jews, far more die in old age.

AGUE.*

1. Take a cold bath immediately before the cold fit is expected. Nothing tends more to prolong ague than cherishing an indolent disposition.

The patient ought therefore between the fits, to take as much exercise as he can bear, and to partake of light diet; for a common beverage lemonade is the most suitable.

2. Or, take a handful of *groundsels*, shred it small, put it into a paper bag four inches square, pricking that side which is to be next the skin, full of holes. Cover this with thin linen, and wear it on the pit of the stomach, renewing it two hours before the fit. Tried.

3. Or, apply to the stomach a large *onion* slit.

4. Or, melt five cents worth of frankincense, spread it on linen, grate a *nutmeg* on it, cover it with linen and hang this bag on the pit of the stomach. I have never yet known it fail.

5. Or, boil *yarrow* in new milk till it is tender enough to spread as a plaster. An hour before the cold fit, apply this to the wrists, and let it remain till the hot fit is over. If another fit occur, use a fresh plaster. This often cures.

6. Or, drink a quart of *cold water*, immediately before the cold fit. Then go to bed.

7. Or, make six middle-sized pills of *cobwebs*.† Take one a little before the occurrence of the cold fit; two a little before the next fit (suppose the next day); three more, if need be, a little before the third fit. This seldom fails.

8. Or, put a teaspoonful of *salt of tartar* in a large glass of spring water, and drink a little at a time. Repeat the dose the two following days, before the fit occurs.

9. Or, two small tea-spoonfuls of *sal prunella*, an hour before the fit. It generally cures if taken thrice.

10. Or, a large spoonful of *powdered camomile flowers*.

11. Or, a teaspoonful of *spirits of hartshorn*, in a glass of water.

12. Or, eat a *small lemon*, with the rind.


It will be well to take a gentle emetic, and sometimes aperient medicine, before using any of the foregoing remedies. If an emetic be taken a couple of hours before the fit is expected, it generally prevents the fit occurring, and sometimes cures the ague, especially in the case of children. It will be prudent to repeat the remedy (whatever it may be) about a week after it has been taken, in order to prevent a relapse. Aperient medicine should not be taken soon after. The daily use of a flesh-brush, and frequent cold bathing are of great importance.

13. Children have been cured by wearing a waistcoat in which cinchona bark was quilted.

* Ague is an intermitting fever, each fit of which is preceded by a cold shivering and goes off in a sweat.

† We are indebted to a physician of this city for the information that this applies only to the webs of spiders which work in cellars, and in other dark places. This, he tells us, has been tested in hundreds of cases.

TESTIMONY RELATING TO VACCINATION.—I have never favored a Compulsory Vaccination Law, and shall vote for its repeal when I have the opportunity.—MR. SAMUEL MORLEY, M. P.

 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 St. West. Price \$1.50 per annum.