

Mistakes of Physicians.

Oliver W. Holmes, (physician, philosopher and poet, in a lecture upon physicians, gives the following account of some mistakes which have been made in medicine:

Former or later, everybody is tripped up by a diagnosis. I saw Velpéau tie one of the carotid arteries for a supposed aneurism, which was only a little harmless tumor, and laid his patient. Mr. Dease, of Dublin, was more fortunate in a case he boldly declared an abscess, while others thought it an aneurism. He thrust his lancet into it, and proved himself in the right. Soon after he made a similar diagnosis. He thrust in his lancet as before, and cut gashed the patient's blood and his life with it. The next morning Mr. Dease was found dead and floating in his own blood. He had divided the femoral artery.

I have doomed people; and seen others doom them, over and over again, upon the strength of physical signs, and they have lived in the most contumacious and scientific manner, as long as they were liked, and some of them are still living. I see two men in the street very often, who were both as good as dead in the opinion of all who saw them in their extremity. People will insist on living, sometimes, though manifestly moribund. In Dr. Elder's Life of Kane you will find a case of this sort, told by Dr. Kane himself. The captain of a ship was dying of scurvy, but the crew mutinied, and he gave up dying for the present to attend to them. An old lady in this city, near her end, got a little vexed about a proposed change in her will, made up her mind not to do just then, ordered a coach, was driven to the house of a relative, and lived four years longer. Cotton Mather tells some good stories which he picked up in his experience, or out of his books, showing the unstable equilibrium of prognosis. Simon was shot in time places, and he lay for dead, the Indians made two licks with a hatchet to cut off his head. He got well, however, and was a lusty fellow in Cotton Mather's time. Jabez Mudge was shot with a bullet that went in at his ear and came out his eye on the other side. A couple of bullets went through his body also. Jabez got well, however, and lived many years. Per contra, Col. R. S. Sizer, cracking a plum-bone with his teeth, broke a tooth and lost his life. We have seen a physician die, like Spangius, from a scratch; and a man who had a crowbar shot through his head is alive and well. Those extreme cases are warnings. But you can never be too cautious in your prognosis, in the view of the great uncertainty of the course of any disease not long watched, and the many unexpected turns it may take.

INDIAN WHISKEY.—A citizen of St. Paul furnishes some pretty hard papers on his fellow sinners who trade with the north-western Indians. He says a barrel of the "pure Cincinnati" (?) even after it has run the gauntlet of railroad and lake travel is a sufficient basis upon which to manufacture one hundred barrels of "good Indian liquor." He says a small bucketful of the Cincinnati article is poured into a washtub almost full of rain water; a large quantity of "dog-leg" and red pepper is then thrown into the tub; a bitter species of root, common in "land of Dacotah," is then cut up and added; burnt sugar or some such article is used to restore something like the original color of the whiskey. The compound has to be kept on hand a few days before it is fit for use. It is administered to the aborigines ad libitum. He says all an Indian wants is something that will "blot" and it matters not whether it is pepper, rum or tobacco; that he will give forty acres of land for one dose. He says some of the speculators, when they wish to "drive a bargain," have only to administer this innocent preparation to the Chippewas and Sioux simultaneously and they all start at once for their war clubs and tomahawks, and proceed to cleave each other's brains out.

A SUFFERER ON STEAM ENGINES AND NEGROES.—Messrs. Phillips, Sampson & Co., says the Boston Journal, have received the following letter from one of the subscribers to the Atlantic Monthly, in Louisiana. The monkey experiment is decidedly rich:—

June 24, 1858. Gentlemen: In an article headed "What we are going to make" in the last number of your magazine, the writer thinks that the million for niggers is to be brought about by steam, on the ground that a bushel of coal fed to a steam engine will produce more power than a bushel of Injun corn fed to a nigger, and that the great improvement that is to take place in these engines in 50 or 100 years will enable us to navigate our canals, rivers, and plover as much cotton, with one cent of this cost, in the same length of time, and at a less expense, than with ten times as much steam, consequently, we will free the niggers as a nation, and take the engine instead. Now just grant that what he says about power by steam should turn out true—and cotton could be grown in this way. I just want to ask him one question—When it comes to picking out, what is his steam engine? It takes fingers to do this sort of work, and no steam engine will ever be made to strike a lick like them. If we ever play by steam, which I will deny, we must be done, we'll turn our niggers into monkeys—and the more cotton and sell at less price. He is what might be called a speculative genius, like a fellow who lives not far from here. He thought he'd make an improvement in picking, and then monkeys would be the very article. One monkey could pick as much as a nigger, and one nigger could oversee 10 monkeys. The monkeys was put and the trial made; the only mistake about it was, instead of one nigger managing 10 monkeys, it took 10 niggers to manage one monkey; so he has given up experimenting and stuck to the old way of gathering his crop. Some one says that every man is crazy on some subject. Your man is crazy on steam, but it is not exactly the right sort to steam the world. Tell him to fire up and try again. I will excuse me for saying that I think some of your articles is rather too inflated for a abolition subject.

Respectfully, A SUBSCRIBER. P. S.—Tell your breakfast-table man to get a new table's one of 'em.

The Columbia Spy.

A PENNSYLVANIA INDEPENDENT JOURNAL.

COLUMBIA, P.A. SATURDAY, JULY 24, 1858.

We are happy to state that there is every probability that Mr. Nichols will retain his position as Principal of the Washington Institute. At a meeting of the board of trustees it was resolved not to accept the resignation of Mr. N., and we presume that gentleman will return to his post at the opening of the next session.

MAD DOG.—On Thursday last, a large dog belonging to Mr. Isaac Pusey, was pursued into town by several farmers of the neighborhood and shot. It is asserted that the animal was mad and had bitten several dogs in the country and a number of others while being hunted through the streets of the borough. We trust that the alms may have been a false one, and the unfortunate brute a sacrifice, like so many others during the reign of the Dog Star, to the unfounded fear of "mad dog." Nevertheless, we shall not be sorry to record as a consequence of the excitement, whether justifiable or baseless, the general muzzling or chaining of the countless curs which infest our town to no good. We by no means advocate the reopening of last season's sanguinary campaign—at least we deprecate the public slaughter of the victims—but should the decree go forth of "death to the dogs," with a proviso for its execution in a manner which shall as little as possible outrage the tender feelings of the public, we will bless the general muzzling or chaining of the countless curs which infest our town to no good. We by no means advocate the reopening of last season's sanguinary campaign—at least we deprecate the public slaughter of the victims—but should the decree go forth of "death to the dogs," with a proviso for its execution in a manner which shall as little as possible outrage the tender feelings of the public, we will bless the general muzzling or chaining of the countless curs which infest our town to no good.

THE CHANGE ON THE PENNA. R. R.—On Monday last, the alteration of the track in Market street, Philadelphia, having been completed, the broad gauge cars of the P. R. R. were run over the entire length of the road between Philadelphia and Pittsburg. By this arrangement no change of cars between the termini of the road is necessary, and the same conductor has charge of the train through the entire route. Several of the old conductors of passenger trains have thus necessarily been thrown out of employment, and among them Mr. Wm. Delaney and Mr. George Hambricht. We are sorry to lose both these gentlemen, whose uniform courtesy to passengers has rendered them favorites with the traveling community.

THE GRAIN CROP.—The harvest in this vicinity with the exception of getting in the oats, is over, and has been generally very favorable as regards fine weather. The crops of grain are large, but we are informed that the field wheat has considerably damaged the white wheat, reducing the yield below the average. The red wheat is untouched.

LODGE'S GALLERY.—Mr. Samuel Lodge has made arrangements by which he is enabled to take, in addition to his superior Daguerrotype likenesses, Ambratypes of the first order of excellence. We have examined specimens of his art and can pronounce them equal in merit to any we have ever seen. With this increase of facilities for accommodating the public Mr. Lodge should command a liberal patronage. His rooms are at the N. E. Corner of Front and Locust streets.

HOUSEHOLD WORDS.—Household Words, from Jansen & Co., New York, is always received and read with pleasure. We have said much in favor of this periodical, and could our good word influence to the extent of our good will we would add to its list of subscribers a thousand-fold. It is the very matter for warm weather reading; light, without being trifling; solid, without being tedious. It combines in happiest proportion thoughts for food and food for thought.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—The Atlantic keeps steadily on winning the approbation and support of the reading community. It is strong in its corps of contributors and ably handled by its editor. We have found fewer stupid articles in its pages than in those of any periodical ever before published in this country, and in it during its brief career, has been given to the world some of the most readable and sparkling papers of the day. The August number fully sustains the reputation of the Monthly.

FRANKLYN'S HOME GAZETTE.—This is the title of a new candidate for public support and favor, to be published monthly in Philadelphia, by J. W. Badger, and edited by John Frost, L. L. D. The first number appears in the form of a neat quarto, tastefully gotten up and containing much good original and selected matter. We bespeak a favorable reception for the new paper, which, under its able editor must prove a valuable addition to the literature of the day. We are glad to find Mr. Frost in Philadelphia in a more competent to fill, not only creditably but with distinction.

ARTHUR'S HOME MAGAZINE.—The August number of this family Magazine is fully equal to its rivals in the same line. It is readable and contains much information concerning ladies' work and household matters which will be found not only interesting but of value.

DEATH OF WM. T. PORTER.—We regret to notice the death of this gentleman, so well known as the editor of the Spirit of the Times and Porter's Spirit. He died in New York on Monday last.

A REMEDY THAT CURES.—When suffering from any disease of the throat or lungs, rest assured that speedy relief may be obtained by using Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry. Its success in such cases is unparalleled.

ONORIFICIOUS.—Some wag, writing from Cairo, Ill., since the subsiding of the flood, says there are now in that city 452 distinct and different smells, and several wards yet to hear from.

Police Items.

REPORTED BY OUR SPECIAL "MOUCHARD."

MITIGATED HOMICIDE.—On Friday, 16th inst., Wm Wagner appeared before Esquire Welch and under high-pressure excitement made complaint against Wm. E. Krater, of Marietta, for slaying (partially) Richard Campbell with a stone. It was the opinion of informant that unless a warrant was speedily issued the blow would prove instantly fatal. Under these circumstances Deputy Constable Derrick was empowered to take the body—not the dead body—of Krater, and produce him to answer the charge of Homicide. The warrant was served and defendant appeared on Monday morning, at which time also came the defect, with a large plaster on his head and the fumes of an old drunk spinning jinx, ready and willing to testify to the manner of his killing off.

The parties are navigators of the seamy and odorous ditch which supplies so liberal a proportion of our daily beverage, and were with their respective vessels, under full sail towards "Saints Rest" vulgarly known as Marietta, when the little unpleasantness between them occurred. The dispute was one of right way, Krater's boat having run aground and Campbell, in endeavoring to pass with his own craft, getting it foul of the other vessel. The snarl led to an interchange of civilities between deceased and K's hands, one of whom was about "sailing in" when Capt. Krater arrived from the front where he had been in charge of the motive power, and dissuaded his belicose subordinate from hostilities. Campbell, who had considerable loose whiskey "dash-in" round" in him, was intolerably abusive, and immediately turned the flow of his offensive eloquence upon the peace-maker, "reading his pedigree" and keel-hauling him after the most approved bilge-water style. His choice selection of canal compliments was more than Krater's good humor and philosophy would bear, so to stop his talk, Capt. K. knocked him on the head with a stone. The remedy was effectual.

Abundant evidence was produced, establishing defendant's character as an industrious, orderly and peaceable citizen, while the late Campbell, even in face of his sudden and lamented decease under circumstances, according to all precedent, naturally calculated to establish his reputation as a saint, was proven notoriously quarrelsome and abusive, especially when in rage.

The magistrate, in view of the virulent blackguarding lavished by Capt. Campbell upon defendant, adjudged the former guilty of profanity and "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," but in consideration of his late death and the price of the plaster which decorated his cranial development, let him off with a reprimand. The charge of Homicide against Capt. Krater was dismissed, the killing being deemed justifiable, but, as somebody had to pay the costs, the Justice decided that the luxury of "plugging" with a stone so enticing a mark as Campbell's head, was worth the money. And Capt. K. led for the amount.

WOULDN'T STAY BANISHED.—On Monday, 19th inst., that naughty young woman, Evanna Melissa Kuhn, banished for life to the penal settlement of Lancaster, by Justice Welsh, on the 11th inst., as recorded in the last number of these veracious chronicles, was brought before the same magistrates by High Constable Derrick, having been discovered by this vigilant and efficient officer cruising within the tabooed borough limits.

The 'demi-selle' appeared with less reluctance than on the previous occasion, evincing little of the recalcitrant spirit which characterized her former progress to the Temple of Justice, and necessitated the employment of auxiliary motive power. A change of tactics also marked her defense. She rested her case less upon vituperative hostility towards the officiating constabulary than on copious and lachrymose pathos; the excellent influence of which she essayed upon that oceanic formation popularly believed to represent the human heart in judges, lawyers and J. P.'s. This abandonment of aggressive warfare for the seducing softness of tears and entreaties evinced a certain knowledge of human nature on the part of Evanna Melissa, but a melancholy ignorance of comparative anatomy. The ordinarily universal solvent, a woman's tears, failed to make an impression on the Esquire's petrification, and we question whether the young woman, had she wept mariatic acid, or even old rye, would have succeeded in biting deep enough to move the first bowel of compassion in the Justice. That austere dignitary put on his sternest and most judicially-bewigged inflexibility of countenance and deportment, heard the evidence of the arresting officer, and, in solemn tones, demanded of the prisoner whether she had anything to say why the extreme severity of the law should not be invoked in her case—why sentence of death should not be passed upon her.

Miss Kuhn here turned very pale and seemed for the first time to realize her critical position. She reasoned. She asserted that when sentence of banishment had been pronounced she was allowed no time for getting her "things" together, and how could a young lady be expected to visit Lancaster without a wardrobe? Further: her garments when "got together," were not in violating condition; she felt justified in remaining one day to wash and one day to iron. When this progress had been made in "getting ready" she discovered a defect in her clothing, and, as her pilgrimage, maugre the thirty-five cents, was to be made at once, what could she do but tarry another day for repairs? This brought her to Saturday night; she could not travel on Sunday; on Monday she was arrested. She threw herself on the mercy of the court, only entreating not to be sent again to Lancaster. Her antipathy to a summer residence in that city, she stated, arose only from the fact that her parents and friends moved in its first society. The Justice thought he could provide her a snug little retreat where she would be secluded from her relatives and the rest of mankind, yet he could not recede from his former decision, and change entirely her place of destination. To Lancaster she must go; but this time in charge of Richard. Evanna Melissa was sentenced and sent down for 20 days at hard labor, as a vagrant.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Massachusetts might with propriety be called the "Shoemaker State." It appears that every eighth man in the State does something towards making shoes. Sixty-two per cent of the population is productive. We have 1500 doctors; 1750 ministers; 1545 printers; Three per cent of the males work in factories; 17 per cent are farmers; 5 per cent are sailors; 9 per cent traders. It has generally been considered abroad that Massachusetts was most largely engaged in cotton and woolen manufactures, but that is a small thing when compared with her leather interests. Every town in the State has its shoemaking community. Many small farmers, on rainy days and in winter, take it up as a sort of knitting work, and fill out the year by this means.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

The removal of the obstacles to the efficient working of this great road, between Philadelphia and Pittsburg, is thus described by the U. S. Railroad and Mining Register:

Through passengers on the Pennsylvania Railroad have to this time been subjected to the inconvenience of changing cars at Harrisburg; this change was compulsory, even after the State had relaid the Columbia Railroad track with a wider space between, because of the condition of a small piece of iron track in Market street, east of Broad street in this city. At the same time, the short space between the bottom and the crown of the tunnel on the Harrisburg and Lancaster Railroad, at Elizabethtown, prevented the passenger engines of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company from drawing trains through it. This obstacle has been removed by cutting down the grade of the track in the tunnel three feet, thereby allowing the smoke stack of the largest locomotives to pass clear of the arch; the city tracks in Market street are being relaid wider apart, and on Monday the new arrangement took effect, under which the trains will be passed over the whole length of the road without change of car or conductor on the way.

A through passenger, therefore, who takes a seat in a car at Eleventh and Market streets, Philadelphia, east Liberty street, Pittsburg, will hold possession without ejection till the end of the road opposite his starting point is reached.

For the Columbia Spy. Mr. EORROR—I take the liberty of asking a small space in your valuable paper, to correct a false and apparently malicious story which appears to be freely circulated among the citizens of Columbia, in regard to the resignation of Mr. J. D. Nichols as principal of the "Washington Institute." The story goes that I used my influence with the Trustees to effect his dismissal. Now, sir, I consider most fearfully that the said report is false in every particular, and challenge any man to show a single instance in which I used any means to effect his discharge, or in any manner interfere with the success of Mr. N. in his capacity as principal of the school, or at any time made any disparaging remark to the Trustees about him. I call upon the Trustees, if they or either of them have any sort of objection to cause his removal, to publish it to the world; or failing to do so, I hope that those whose zeal has recently been awakened in his behalf will cease their efforts to do an injury to one from whom I am sure Mr. N. will say he has received uniformly the kindest treatment. I am not much in the habit of noticing the mean low of any effort of mine to cause the removal of a public officer, or failing to do so, I hope that those whose zeal has recently been awakened in his behalf will cease their efforts to do an injury to one from whom I am sure Mr. N. will say he has received uniformly the kindest treatment. I am not much in the habit of noticing the mean low of any effort of mine to cause the removal of a public officer, or failing to do so, I hope that those whose zeal has recently been awakened in his behalf will cease their efforts to do an injury to one from whom I am sure Mr. N. will say he has received uniformly the kindest treatment.

J. W. FISHER.

LIST OF JURORS.

To serve in the Court of Quarter Sessions, commencing Monday, the 10th day of August. Geo. H. Bomberger, City. Uriah Carpenter, Warwick. Isaac Cunkin, West Hempfield. George Diller, East Earl. Charles Dintze, Eden. Benjamin Eshleman, Conestoga. A. S. Ewing, Plumrose. Isaac Good, Salisbury. David Ginzler, Mount Joy. David Grube, Manheim. Henry Hershey, East Hempfield. Christian O. Herr, Manor. Jacob Hiestand, Manheim. John M. Krider, West Hempfield. Emanuel Longest, Penn. David Mast, Carmarvon. John Masterson, Reading. Christian Oberholzer, Salisbury. Levi Oberholzer, Salisbury. Robert Patterson, Little Britain. George Rigg, Carmarvon. William Rhoads, Salisbury. James Richardson, Coleraine. Adam Wenger, West Earl.

PETTY JURORS.

To serve in the same Court. Daniel Balmer, Elizabethtown. David Brandt, Mount Joy. George Buckwalter, East Lampeter. Cromwell Black, Coleraine. Henry Breneman, Strasburg. Joseph Breneman, Rapho. W. S. Bair, East Donegal. Isaac Bushong, Upper Leacock. Frank B. Berman, Providence. Levi Bar, Carmarvon. Thomas C. Collins, Coleraine. John Dyer, Manheim bor. Jacob B. Eshleman, Manor. Peter Eby, East Earl. Samuel Fry, Warwick. Joseph Franz, East Earl. Martin H. Fry, East Coaleico. Philip Geist, West Lampeter. Amos Green, Columbia. Christian Grosh, East Donegal. John B. Good, Brecknock. Hugh S. Garsa, East Donegal. John A. House, East Donegal. Daniel Herr, Strasburg. Geo. R. Hendrickson, Mount Joy bor. John High, East Earl. Frederick Heister, West Hempfield. Jacob Kline, Manheim. Samuel M. Knox, Leacock. John Kirk, Little Britain. Abraham Leaman, West Lampeter. Joel W. Lightner, Paradise. Peter McConomy, City. Benjamin Martin, Berquean. Allen M. Miller, Berquean. Jacob Miller, Mount Joy. Simon Minnich, Manheim. John Oberholzer, Brecknock. Jesse Pennypacker, Clay. George K. Reed, City. John A. Shead, City. Thomas Sands, Warwick. Benjamin E. Shirk, A. Manestown. John Smith, Jr., Salisbury. William Withers, Eden. Jacob Wenger, Upper Leacock. Joseph Wenger, Upper Leacock. Thomas Zell, Marietta.

Items of News.

On Friday morning 16th, an accident occurred on the New York and Erie Railroad, at Shin Hallow, 75 miles from New York City, by which the two hind ears of a passenger train were thrown from the track, by the breaking of a rail, and with their contents precipitated down a thirty foot embankment, killing nine persons and wounding forty-seven, some of them fatally.

General Quitman died at his residence, near Natchez, on Saturday last of the disease which he contracted at the National Hotel last fall.

Governor Denver has left Washington and gone back to Kansas. A bridge over the Little Lehigh river, on the Lehigh Valley Railroad, broke down on Wednesday as a coal train of cars was passing over it, and killed the fireman and engineer.

At the last dates ten thousand emigrants had sailed from California for the Frazer river gold mines.

It is reported that dispatches have been sent to our Minister in Mexico, approving of his course, and directing the withdrawal of the legation from the country.

We have later news from Utah by the arrival of the mail at the western frontier.—General Johnston had entered Salt Lake City with his army on the 26th, and made his headquarters there. He had issued a proclamation, inviting the Mormons to return to their homes, which thus far they have not done.

The De Riviere case, in New York, has at length come to a termination.—Mrs. Blount having been, by some means, convinced that the Frenchman was an impostor and a married man, and agreed to return to Mobile with her husband, and restore her daughter also to the father.—De Riviere is to be allowed to escape.

General Ward B. Barnett, of New York, accepts the office of Surveyor-General of Kansas, has made all his appointments, and will leave for the territory this week. So there is an end of Calloun.

On the night of the 14th, a fire at Leavenworth city, Kansas, destroyed the Union Theatre and thirty other buildings, principally in the block bounded by Cherokee, Shawnee, Second, and Third street. Loss \$100,000. Insurance trifling. The conflagration was only arrested by a copious shower of rain, and a lull of the wind; there being no fire apparatus or organization in the city.

The Swill Milk investigation in New York city has all ended in trouble to the instigator, the report of the majority of the committee in favor of the stables having been approved by the Board of Health, and Frank Leslie, who began the crusade, having been sued for libel by a member of the Board of Aldermen.

Col. Kane will not publish an account of his Utah diplomacy, as has been stated, as it is not calculated to advance the public interests.

The Camanches have been committing depredations in the neighborhood of Fort Arbuckle.

On the first of August the military department of Florida will be broken up.—Lieut. Gen. Scott has issued an order complimenting Col. Loomis for having managed to terminate the Indian troubles there.

It has been determined to build a second sloop of war at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

Secretary Toucey has sufficiently recovered from his illness to transact the business of the Navy Department. He will go to Connecticut at the close of the month.

FOREIGN.

The steamship North Star arrived at New York, on Tuesday from Havre and Cowes, with European advices to the 7th, three days later than those brought by the steamer Canada. The Atlantic telegraph cable parted about a thousand miles from the Irish coast. The Niagara and Gorgon abandoned on the 5th inst., having abandoned the enterprise. The Agamemnon and Valorous had not arrived on the 7th inst.—There has been an arrival of 2500 ounces of gold from New Zealand. A new gold field has been discovered in Australia. An exchange of diplomatic attaches between St. Petersburg and Constantinople has been directed. The Rev. Mr. Spurgeon designs visiting America. An allied naval expedition has been organized to seize the shipping and stores at Pechu, destined to supply the Chinese forces at Peking. A visit is contemplated by Queen Victoria to Cherbourg, to witness the French naval review. The Spanish Ambassador, at London, has resigned in consequence of the change in the ministry. Explorations have been demanded by the Viceroy of Egypt, about negotiating a loan of an English house. The Madrid cabinet has been completed. General Ros de Alano is the new Captain-General of Cuba. Germany and Denmark are in diplomatic difficulty.

ADVICES FROM THE CAPT OF GOOD HOPE mention that a great fire had occurred at Port Elizabeth, destroying the finest warehouses in the place.

GETTYSBURG (PA.) RAILROAD.—On Friday last the first locomotive and train of cars on this road crossed the Conowing bridge. The Compiler states that the company are about to take measures to erect a passenger station and other necessary buildings at Gettysburg.

A BLACK JOKE.—The Louisville Journal perpetrates the following:—"Mr. J. Black, of the Southern Banner, declares for the dissolution of the Union.—Let him have a traitor's reward.—"Hang be the heavens with Black."

A Maine editor says that a pumpkin in that State grew so large, that eight men could stand around it. This is like the fellow who saw a flock of pigeons so low that he could shake a stick at them.

Brown wants to know "if a man's boots squeaks hasn't got music in his sole?"

Letter on Asthma and Nasal Catarrh.

BY DR. N. B. WOLFE.

LETTER XXIV. To the Editor of the Missouri Democrat:

Str.—I propose to close this series of letters, by giving a description of Asthma and Nasal Catarrh, and the only known mode of successfully treating them. Asthma is characterized by shortness of breath, wheezing, and a sense of tightness in the chest. The chest feels as though it were bound. The patient sits up in bed and pants for air, the house feels too small to breathe in, and the doors and windows must be thrown open. If the fit is severe, the perspiration starts out on the forehead, the expression of the countenance becomes anxious, face haggard, lips pale, hands and feet cold, and the heart beats violently. After some time these symptoms gradually subside, and the patient is relieved. The cause is to be found in spasmodic constriction of the air-tubes, caused by irritation of the nerves supplying the lungs. This narrowing of the calibre of the tubes, prevents the access of a sufficiency of air to the air-cells, and partial suffocation, (in which consists asthma,) is the result. There are several forms of asthma.

Nervous or Spasmodic Asthma.—In this form the structure of the lungs or heart, in the first instance, depending purely upon sudden cramp or contraction of the muscular fibres of the air-tubes; but if proper treatment be not applied early, extensive disorganization of the lungs will take place, and life be rendered a burthen. Some authors make a separate class of those cases of spasmodic asthma, where there is none or scanty expectoration, but the distinction is unnecessary. They call it dry asthma. Emphysema is asthma in which a portion of the air-tubes are enlarged, generally from prior attacks of bronchitis, or that form of it called by some, congestion of the lungs. In these cases the patient is never entirely easy in the breathing, some shortness being always present, nor can lie down horizontal in bed. Unless checked by proper treatment more and more air-tubes dilate, until the sufferer's life becomes one of persistent misery.

Treatment.—Asthma, is admitted on all hands, to be a purely local disease, dependent most commonly on bronchitis, and yet hitherto, it has baffled the art of the most scientific physicians. The first step in the right direction, was the introduction of inhaling the fumes of burning saltpetre and stramonium and the vapors of ether and chloroform, and the relief afforded by these palliatives, is often prompt and great. But they leave the cause of asthma untouched. By a scientific employment of medicated inhalation, the causes are attacked and removed. Dry catarrh, thickening and ulceration of the air tubes, and other irritating provocatives of asthma, are easily removed by this means, and result in the permanent cure of asthma. This is the only philosophical, rational, and successful mode of healing this disease; the cure is prompt, and relief speedy, and had inhalation done no more than this, it would have a weighty claim on the gratitude of mankind.

To present the subject of nasal catarrh intelligently to the reader, it is necessary to observe that the entrance to the lungs is approached by two sets of cavities, the nostrils, and the mouth, opening into one large one, the pharynx. These are lined by a mucous membrane, which is continued down the windpipe into the bronchial tubes, to the minutest ramifications, and invests the tiny air-cells in which they terminate. Inflammation travels along mucous membranes with facility, hence the importance attaching to either of the cavities above designated. First in order comes the nose, in our climate prone to a chronic inflammation, called nasal catarrh, so often the precursor of consumption. Sometimes a chronic discharge is so insidiously established that its commencement cannot be defined, but more commonly a series of acute attacks of nasal catarrh succeed each other, the mucous membrane being increasingly enfeebled at each successive invasion, a "permanent state" of chronic rheum is left, which extending into the throat and windpipe, gradually reaches the air-cells, and from the imperfect ceration of the blood, tubercle is deposited, and thus the foundation of consumption is laid. The fact cannot be too strongly impressed, that whatever impedes the due access of the air to the blood, will in time so vitiate its quality, in particular in fibrine, that specks of the latter are gradually deposited in the air-cells and minute bronchia, and by their growth constitute tubercles, and going through various changes and disintegrating the substance of the lungs constitute that awful malady, consumption. Among the principal causes capable of occasioning this state of things are, catarrh, vitiated air, improper positions of the body, deprivation of light, nervous exhaustion, and inflamed surfaces of air cells. In this aspect, nasal catarrh resolves itself into a question of vast importance, and we shall now proceed to detail the symptoms.

ACUTE CATARRH.—At first, the breathing through the nose is interrupted by the swelling of the lining membrane, which is hot and dry. Then acrid fluid distils from the nostrils, blistering the skin in its progress. Cold air or bright light cause sneezing. The disease in severe cases is not limited to the nostrils, but extend to the eyes, and frontal sinuses, through ducts lined with mucous membrane, and the profuse showers of tears, and the heavy pain over the eyebrows, that are so often present in this disease. The general system sympathizes, and fever is set up, there is pain in the back, and a sense of painful fatigue in the thighs. The discharge from the nose gradually thickens and becomes yellow, losing its acidity, and as this change progresses health gradually returns.

CHRONIC CATARRH.—From repeated acute attacks in a scrofulous constitution, or from neglect, the mucous membrane of the nose becomes altered in structure, and Chronic Catarrh is established. It may consist in hacking or clearing out the throat of a yellow straw-colored plegm, (particularly in the morning) which accumulates behind the soft palate, and on examining the throat may often be seen hanging down in festoons or streaks; or small ulcers form in the nose, which scab over, and are constantly picked off by the sufferer. Again, false membrane is secreted, which the patient removes from time to time; or the secretion may be purulent and irritating, and constantly dripping into the throat, excites the various diseases of the throat and lungs, hereafter to be described. The ulcers sometimes spread down to the bone and producing caries, a very formidable state of things ensues, characterized by a thin offensive discharge. Chronic Catarrh derives its importance from its tendency to spread down the throat to the air tubes and cells, laying the foundation of consumption of which it is often the precursor, and usually the accompaniment. Hence should it never be neglected.

TREATMENT.—Until the employment of local remedies, Nasal Catarrh was incurable, for it is evident that the complaint could not be reached by sending medicines the round of the stomach and circulation in search of the disease. By means of a peculiar syringe, proper washes are thrown over the affected surface, and as the throat is usually more or less involved, inhalants are indicated. Passing into the lungs, they exert their healing influence on the throat and air tubes, and exhaled through the nose continue their benign influence. I remain, your obedient servant, N. B. WOLFE, M. D., Physician for the Diseases of the Lungs.

NOTE.—Dr. Wolfe will remain in Columbia, Lancaster co., Pa., until the first of September, and may be consulted for all diseases of the Throat and Lungs until that time. He has prepared a circular for persons at a distance, who may be laboring under disease of the Lungs, and will send it on application by letter.

A Good Thing Well Applied.

The scientific discoverer and the scientific inventor are distinct and different characters. It is rarely that he who discovers a great principle applies it successfully and thoroughly. Sometimes, however, this is the case. Professor Holloway was among the first to broach the theory that disease was the result of the introduction of morbid matter into the circulation. But of itself this theory, however true, was useless. It could not subserve any beneficial purpose to point out the locality of the band unless the discoverer were provided with an antidote capable of reaching it. Professor Holloway came up to the good work doubly armed.—He had not only traced the symptoms of disease to their genuine cause, but had, after long research and innumerable experiments, produced two remedies which would infallibly reach it. Time, which tries all things, has tested the value of those remedies. What has been the result? During the twenty years they have been before the world, thousands of medicines, hundreds of new systems of practice have been ushered into existence, enjoyed an ephemeral popularity, and passed into oblivion. Not so Holloway's Pills and Ointment. They stand first on the list of modern cures. Their reputation is founded on a rock—the rock of truth—and cannot be shaken.—Scarcely a year ago their inventor came to our shores unheralded. It is true that large quantities of his medicines were consumed in the United States, and that his skill, his enterprise, his success, were often referred to by the American press, but personally he was unknown to us, and the great system of agencies with which he had covered more than half the habitable globe had not yet been extended to this country. He came hither for the purpose of affording us new facilities for the procurement of his preparations, and the consequence has been an increase of one hundred per cent., in the demand for them within a few months. It appears, from the statement of all who have taken the Pills for indigestion, that their effect in cases of dyspepsia is almost beyond belief. As this complaint has with some truth been called the national disease of America, a specific that never fails to remove it is of course invaluable.

The public, on both sides of the Atlantic, had been so often victimized by medical charlatans during the last fifty years, that it received with something of distrust the first rumors of the efficacy of HOLLOWAY'S remedies. But every day furnished new proofs of the fact, and at last such was the overwhelming weight of evidence in their favor, that it has become a matter of doubt to a man to believe. They grew in celebrity, and a demand for them increased with a rapidity unexampled in the annals of medical science; nor has their fame or that of their inventor yet attained its culminating point. It never will reach that point, for culmination presupposes cessation of progress; and so long as humanity is more or less afflicted with pain, fever, injury, and death, HOLLOWAY'S Pills and Ointment must continue to maintain their proud pre-eminence.—N. J. Nat. Pol. Gazette.

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