

ments, or spasms. Such movements are analogous to the tremblings of the frightened or passionate man.

After making these remarks on an article which has appeared in the *British and Foreign Medical Review*, I feel that it would ill become me if I did not acknowledge an act of justice, on the part of the editor of that work, towards myself individually. A review of my pamphlet on insanity appeared in the above-named work, in which both the work and its author were condemned in the most unceremonious manner.—Vol. xvii. p. 526. This being, as far as I am aware, the only unfavourable notice which the book received at the hands of the critical bar of the profession, I considered it advisable to make a few remarks on the critique, which the editor of THE LANCET did me the honour to publish. Since that time I have been gratified by perceiving that, by certain authors, and in certain reports of discussions which have taken place in medical societies, and which have appeared in THE LANCET, a disordered condition of the blood has been assumed, as a matter of course, to be one cause of insanity; but equally, I presume, as a matter of course, no reference has been made to the individual who first directed the attention of the profession to the fact. I was therefore the more gratified, and am the more ready to acknowledge this spontaneous act of justice on the part of the editor of the *British and Foreign Medical Review*, who, while reviewing M. Moreau's "Psychological Studies," says, "That the presence of a minute portion of any of these substances (alcohol, opium, hachisch, nitrous oxide, &c.)—a portion almost too minute to be recognised by ordinary chemical processes—in the blood which is passing through the capillaries of the brain, should so alter its relations to the nervous substance as to produce results which manifest themselves in the entire change of the ordinary course of psychical phenomena, must always be included, we apprehend, as a fundamental fact, in any theory that may be framed by philosophers who please themselves with speculating on this mysterious question. The marked correspondence which may be traced between the phenomena of insanity and those which are induced by the introduction of such substances into the blood, must not be overlooked in any attempt to arrive at the true pathology of the former condition, or to bring it within the domain of therapeutic art. We believe that Mr. Sheppard may claim the merit of having first prominently directed attention to this method of viewing the phenomena of insanity; and we would take this opportunity of stating our present feeling, that in our unfavourable criticism of his little work we had rather too strongly before our eyes the demerits of his hypothesis, than its positive value. His notion was, we are ready to admit, quite correct in regard to a certain class of cases of insanity; and his fault was that which is so common with fancy writers—namely, hasty generalization, the same idea being most unwarrantably stretched, so as to include all* forms of insanity. There can be no doubt that the properties of the blood may be perverted by abnormal changes going on within the system, as well as by the direct introduction of poisonous substances from without; and its due relation to the nervous structure may be thus completely changed, so that the psychical operations are seriously interfered with, and a form of insanity develops itself, which is capable of being removed by the adoption of measures calculated to eliminate the morbid matter from the blood, and to restore it to its pristine purity." "We believe that an attentive study of the etiology and phenomena of insanity will gradually lead to the establishment of well-marked distinctions between this class of cases and that in which disease of the cerebral structure itself is the proximate cause of the disordered psychical manifestations; and that in proportion as this difference is kept in view will be the clearness of our prognosis and the efficiency of our remedial measures. We are rather surprised that this view of the subject has not occurred to M. Moreau, whose treatise is purely psychological."

Stonehouse, Devon.

* I merely said there was "presumptive evidence in favour of this idea."

ON LYING ADVERTISEMENTS.

"We believe that advertisers are too cautious to take the circulation of a journal upon its own statement. Besides, there is one small difficulty in the way of attracting advertisements by these announcements. The medical journals are not newspapers, and therefore the number of stamps issued furnishes no criterion of the number of copies printed and circulated."—*Medical Gazette*.

Analyses

OF

COMMUNICATIONS IN MS. RECEIVED FOR PUBLICATION IN THE LANCET.

Description of a New Pelvipedic Bath.

By MARK W. JACKSON, Esq.

SENIOR SURGEON OF THE STAMFORD INFIRMARY.

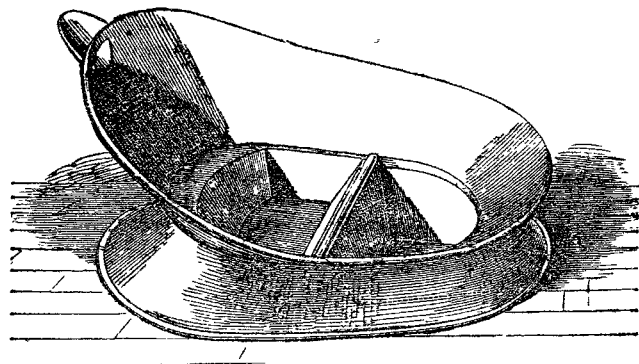
MR. JACKSON prefaces his description by congratulation on the approach of a new era which bids fair to be marked by "a general and universal desire for cleanliness and daily ablution."

"No means (he remarks) are so conducive to the prevention of disease, and the improvement of the health of the inhabitants of large towns, and of the metropolis generally, as frequent bathing. It is not only necessary for our comfort and personal cleanliness, but to insure a healthy action on the surface of the skin, on the due performance of the functions of which the healthy condition of the system depends nearly as much as on the action of the lungs."

After treating of the interchange of function between the lungs and the skin, both being organs destined to excrete carbon from the system, Mr. Jackson says:—"Some practitioners have a fancy for the stomach, others for the liver, and others for the heart, to which organs they refer the causes of our disorders. If the skin received half the attention and anxious solicitude which these organs so daily have lavished upon them, I believe there would often result a greater enjoyment of health."

Our author considers "that there is more suffering and inconvenience from diseases of parts contained within, or immediately exterior to, the pelvis, than any other region of the body; and that, as well as these, lumbago, sciatica, rheumatism, diseases of the rectum, (especially hæmorrhoids,) uterus, bladder, kidneys, and sexual organs, are all greatly alleviated—if they might not be prevented—by bathing and free ablution in water at various temperatures, according to circumstances."

Mr. Jackson has invented a new bath, which he calls the pelvipedic bath, as being intended for both the hips and the feet.



The bath itself may be seen at Messrs. Weiss's, Savigny's, Ferguson's, or Bigg's, surgical instrument makers, London. It is an oval bath, with a seat inside, having a movable cover, which forms the seat. This lid or cover in the above perspective figure is removed, to show the hip-bath or sponging-bath. At the back of the hip-bath is a seat, the legs being placed in the front or foot part of the bath. In this easy position it is very convenient to sponge the perinæum, abdomen, chest, and other parts of the body. The lid being placed over the hip-bath, the feet and legs may be immersed in the foot-bath without using any other part of the bath.

If required, the novel configuration of the parts may be removed from the case, which will then present the appearance of an open bath; and the pelvipedic bath accordingly answers the purpose of a hip-bath, a foot-bath, a bidet, or a warm bath. The feet and hips can also be in two different temperatures—an advantage often highly important in the treatment of female diseases, and even for general sponging; it is equally applicable for children and for adults. It is very portable, requires no more water than a bidet, to be used as that vessel, and is easily emptied.

Mr. Jackson is sanguine in believing "that when seen and tried, his invention will be hailed as an universal bath for the million, and that not only the opulent will adopt its use, but that every hospital, every institution where female diseases are treated, and every union in the kingdom, will avail themselves of its utility and convenience."

He states that it has been seen and approved of by several of the most eminent members of the profession in the metropolis, whose names are mentioned in the communication we have received on the subject.

On the Employment of Sudorifics in Combating Disease.

A CORRESPONDENT at Woolwich communicates to us his objections to the use of James's powder, and also to "the very system itself of sudorifics in disease. I believe (he says) that practice a remnant of by-gone physiology in therapeutics, which occupies itself with forcing perspiration under morbid conditions of the system; and that it is worthy to stand on the same plane with that notion of chlorotic and anemorrhoeal affections which teaches that they are to be combated by the farrago of deobstruents, from savine to electricity."

The writer quotes the following passages:—

"I venture to lay down (says Dr. Holland) the following positions, as founded on sufficient evidence. First, that it is more reasonable, as well as beneficial in practice, to have regard to the changes in the circulation producing diaphoresis, than to the action of sweating itself. And, secondly, that the amount of perspiration is rarely a just measure of the good obtained; and that to make this a primary object, is likely to give a wrong and injurious bias to the treatment of disease."—(Vide Holland on "Sudorific Medicines," page 68; "Holland's Medical Notes and Reflections.")

"My own experience (says Dr. Holland) suggests the conclusion which has occurred to others, that the antimonial powder of our Pharmacopœia is perfectly inert in any ordinary dose; and that the original James's powder has held a reputation barely justified by any method of its use; certainly not by the trifling quantities in which it is now given."—("Medical Notes and Reflections," article Antimonial Medicines, page 560.)

"Dr. Elliotson, many years ago, (that is, when one might quote his opinion without discredit,) advanced similar views in connexion with the worthlessness of James's and the antimonial powder. The tartarized antimony, as Dr. Holland well observes, is capable of performing every end which antimony can be employed for; and this 'far more largely, and with much greater certainty,' than any preparation of the mineral."

But "how unphilosophical, is it not, to address remedies directly to the skin as the chief seat of fever?"

On the Employment of Cod-liver Oil in Scrofulous and Rheumatic Affections.

By EDWARD CAREY, M.D., Guernsey.

DR. CAREY, who considers cod-liver oil as amongst the most valuable analeptic agents, remarks,—

"Since its first introduction, in 1771, by Percival, as a remedy in chronic rheumatism, its use has been principally confined to the hospital in Manchester, where it appears that large quantities have been for many years consumed annually. On the Continent, however, it has been more universally adopted; its chemical analyses accurately ascertained, and its virtues lauded by numerous authors. Schenk, amongst others, considers it as much a specific in rheumatism, gouty and scrofulous affections, as quinine in intermittent fever, or mercury in syphilis.

"Besides the animal matter which it contains, its virtues would appear to be derived, not from the iodine, as is generally supposed, which exists but in a very minute proportion, but from the quantity of phosphorus, sulphur, and other earthy salts, which it holds either free or in combination. The fact that the phosphates are passed in the urine of scrofulous individuals to an extent many times greater than natural would bear out this assumption.

"Its immediate action on the stomach and bowels produces increased appetite, the proper assimilation of the food, and improved colour of the evacuations. The skin from being arid burning or cold becomes warm and perspirable, and the health and strength, after some perseverance in the use of the oil, gradually improves."

Dr. De Jough, of the Hague, has, in a work on the subject, given an elaborate analysis of the three kinds of cod-liver oil, (which we regret that a want of space prevents us from here reproducing.) The same practitioner gives tables of six cases, each treated with the brown, the whitish-brown, and the white oil; and he adds,—

"From this it will be seen that the cures with the brown-coloured oil were effected, on an average, in half the time that was required with the two other kinds. This might have been attributed to accidental circumstances, if only one

patient had been treated with each kind; but in each list of cases the six patients were indiscriminately taken; in fact, we treated the first six patients who presented themselves with the brown, the next six with the whitish-brown, and the last with the white."

Dr. Carey reports the two following cases, illustrative of the curative properties of this remedy:—

"Curvature of the Spine, with Paralysis of the Lower Extremities.

"CASE 1.—Mary P—, aged six, born of unhealthy parents, of scrofulous diathesis, and with enlarged abdomen, emaciated appearance, and swelling of the glands of the neck; had been affected since birth with curvature of the spine and paralysis of the lower extremities. In the lumbar region, the natural bend of the spine forwards was increased so much beyond its proper axis, that the spinous processes could not be felt. The lower extremities, attenuated to the smallest size, hung powerless from the pelvis, which was thrown backwards. The whole osseous system was deformed; the sternum thrown forwards; the clavicle bent to right angles; the muscles of the back were sufficiently developed to support the erect posture when seated. The vital powers were much depressed; cold, shrunken skin; tongue furred; bowels irregular. The secretions having been corrected with mercury and chalk, the use of the oil was commenced by one table-spoonful three times a day, nourishing diet, and tepid salt-water baths three times a week. At the end of a month the general health was visibly improved; the power of motion was gradually restored to the extremities, and she began to crawl. At the end of three months she stood at the bedside, and at the expiration of six months she walked alone. She continued improving under the use of the oil until she was able to run about, and enjoy the perfect use of her limbs. The spine remains still somewhat incurvated forwards.

"CASE 2.—D. G—, aged nine months; born of scrofulous parents; a rickety, strumous child; large head; fontanelles open and large; tumid belly; dark hair and eyes; the spine was distorted; the sternum and clavicles were thrown forwards; the bones of the frame soft and yielding. At this early age he was subject to periodical attacks of dyspnoea, resembling spasmodic asthma, occurring every fortnight, and ceasing after some hours' duration. The respiratory murmur in the intervals was normal, though the breathing was somewhat quicker than natural. Three former children of the same parents had been similarly affected, and had died young. A course of iodine and hydriodate of potash had been persevered in for three months without any visible alteration in the general health, or alleviation of the distressed breathing, nor had the infant acquired the least power over his limbs. The oil was prescribed, when he was a year old, in doses of a teaspoonful three times a day, increasing it gradually to a desert-spoonful. After the first month, the attacks of dyspnoea became less frequent; at the end of the third they had ceased; the general health rapidly improved, limbs acquired strength, and he became a stout, robust child. He is now nine years old, and has enjoyed average good health since the above-named period.

A New Shield for Sore Nipples.

By ST. JOHN W. LUCAS, Esq., M.R.C.S. &c., Louth, Lincolnshire.

"In the treatment of sore nipples I have found great advantage from the use of a very simple shield. It is made of tissue or silver paper, three and a half or four inches square, rubbed over on one side with some unctuous substance. This is placed over the nipple, and readily adheres to the breast; the few folds are then flattened, and laid in any direction so as to avoid the sorest parts.

"I generally use the fat of the deer or calf, which in this part of the country is called 'trundle.' The fat should be well rubbed in with the finger; it is not necessary that the paper should be more than thinly coated over.

"After the infant has been suckled, a fresh paper is usually required; but the cheapness of the application, and the rapidity with which the papers can be made by the attendant nurse, remove any obstacle this might seem to present to their adoption. The paper not only protects the nipple from being rubbed by the linen or clothes, but is so light as scarcely to be felt; it adheres sufficiently to be retained without any kind of support, is easily applied, and costs a mere trifle.

"It is occasionally desirable to medicate the papers: in many cases, the use of arnica montana (in the proportion of ten minims of the tincture to the ounce of fat) has been attended with the best results.