

heated in a drachm or two of water, to produce, in the watery solution of the sulphate of quina, a copious precipitate of a cinnamon brown colour. This precipitate dissolves on heating the liquor; it is also soluble in rectified spirit, and is again thrown down by water. The tincture of iodine may be also applied as a test of the sulphate of quina; this tincture is partly decomposed by water, but the colour of the precipitate is quite different from that produced by the sulphate of quina, which in colour very much resembles the Peruvian bark.

By the preceding characters, namely, its fusion by heat, little solubility in water, greater solubility in alcohol, and the brown coloured precipitate it affords with iodine, it may be distinguished from other substances. To these characters may be added, its sensible qualities, particularly its strong bitter taste, which, if found to co-exist with the above-mentioned chemical properties, will prove the substance to be genuine.

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## FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

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### ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN MEDICAL JOURNALS.

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#### CHOLERA MORBUS.

*Journal der Practischen Heilkunde, Herausgegeben, Von C. W. HUFELAND, und E. OSSAUN.*

*A condensed account of the progress of the Cholera Morbus of India to the shores of the Caspian and Mediterranean Seas.*

In the early part of the present year, Dr. KEHMANN, physician to the Emperor of Russia, published a very voluminous account of the progress of the cholera of the East Indies, and of the ravages it committed in those countries through which it passed. It appears that Persia principally suffered, and that the havoc occasioned by the disease was considerable in the southern part of the Russian empire. He has, with a zeal indefatigable, traced the course of this fell destroyer of the human race; and from the high

official situation which Dr. KEHMANN holds in the Russian capital, the intelligence which he has furnished may be considered authentic. The appearance of this formidable disease on the confines of Europe has occasioned great alarm in the different governments, and it will be seen by the following abstract that their fears were not without foundation, for the disease lost nothing of its violence by its change of situation.

The cholera having traversed the different provinces of India during the years 1817, 1818, 1819, and 1820, has extended itself, during the last four years, over the greater number of the East Indian Islands, as Java, Ceylon, &c., the inhabitants of which have experienced its direful effects. To present a sketch of the fatality of this disease, it will be sufficient to say, that within the three years first mentioned, it destroyed three millions and a half of the inhabitants of these countries. This estimation may be considered as much below the actual number. In 1823, the cholera appeared simultaneously on both sides of the Caspian Sea, and on the shores of the Mediterranean; it extended its ravages over Astracan on the one hand and near the ancient city of Antioch on the other; that is to say, it extended itself in two different points on the confines of Europe. During the summer of 1821, the disease spread itself from the Ganges to the shores of the Persian Gulph, and showed itself at the same time at Maskate, at Bender-Buschen, and at Bussora, and made its appearance a second time at Bombay during the same year; but from all the observations carefully made at that time, it did not appear to have reached further westward than the shores of the Persian Gulph. More than 60,000 persons perished in the neighbourhood of Maskate within the short space of a few weeks. It is true that in these latitudes the dryness of the season and the heat were extremely great. From Maskate the epidemic stretched along the shores of the gulph, and destroyed more than a hundred and twenty-five thousand individuals in a few months. At Bussora, and its environs, eighteen thousand died, and at Bender-Buschen, about fourteen thousand.

After the disease had been thus raging in the months of June and July of the year 1821, on the shores of the Persian Sea, it extended itself, about the end of August of the same year, near to Schiras, which is the first commercial town with which Bender-Buschen has frequent intercourse by means of the caravans. It displayed itself there with such violence, that in one day only, during the month of September, when the heat was at the highest degree of intensity, six thousand persons died. It penetrated even into the harem of the governor, and added to the number of its victims the son of the reigning Chah, his mother, and many of his seraglio. They became alarmed for the fate of Ispahan, which is the ancient capital, lying under the same meridian as Schiras, and which is situated to the north of the principal track of commerce. The Governor General of Ispahan, and a son of the Chah of Persia, ordered that the caravans, which were in the habit of stopping near Ispahan, should change their route and direct it more westward, towards the town of Jesa, thus compelling them to take a great circuit in their course towards the northern provinces. By this prudent step Ispahan was exempted from any attack of the disease, but Jesa endured its violence through the month of October, and on the appearance of the cold weather in November it ceased. In 1822, however, the disease again broke out at Jesa, and extended itself along the route of the caravans, but more particularly at Rain, Kaschan, Koom, Kosbrun, Sava, and Dain, sparing Teheran, but appearing at Killah, Nargam, Casbin, Abhar, Sultunich, Linjan, and Mianeh. Towards the end of the summer it reached to Tauris, the ordinary residence of the heirs presumptive to the crown of Persia, and attacked the Prince Abas Mirza; lastly, it extended to near the frontiers of Turkey, even to Erivan. The greater part of the inhabitants of Tauris deserted the town and fled to the mountains, and were there protected from the pestilence. From Tauris and Emau it spread into the district of Kalkal, where the celebrated salts are found, from thence into the province of Ghilen, and particularly at Rishd, a town situated on

the Caspian Sea, and thence into the province of Mazanderan, where it subsided about the month of November.

In April 1823 it appeared again, and some of the towns of Mazanderan which had escaped during the summer of 1822 were now visited by this scourge. It is thus that this terrible disease has traversed, in the space of two years, to the shores of the Caspian Sea, by a route through the north of Persia; but it also pervaded the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates, and appeared at Bagdad at the latter end of August, where it made terrible ravages. Five thousand persons died there in two months. It attacked also at this time the Persian army, which was encamped near Bagdad, and destroyed more than two thousand soldiers. It appeared also at the ruins of Babylon, and at Illah which is in communication with Bagdad. In the month of November it reached Biri, Austab and Aleppo, after having destroyed at Mupal 500, at Diarbekin 600, and at Orsa 500; at Biri 400 died, and at Austab and Aleppo more than a thousand, being the fourth part of the population of the two last towns. It was only stopped by the setting in of the cold weather in November.

In the countries where the cholera reigns the physicians, as well as the people, consider the disease to be epidemic and contagious. Many towns lost, in a short time, a tenth part of their population when it reigned with great force. It appeared to be less destructive in the towns situated near the Caspian Sea. It is true that it did not absolutely make its appearance in Europe, but it reached to the very borders; and as it was only arrested by the commencement of the cold weather, it is not improbable but that it may again break out in the returning summer; it therefore becomes the local authorities most energetically to take such measures as may avert the scourge which threatens the Russian population, and consequently all Europe.

#### ARCHIVES GENERALES.

*Rupture of the Aorta, occasioned by a bone sticking in the œsophagus.*

A man was admitted into the hospital of Rochefort, with symptoms of

inflammation of the lungs; on the left side he complained of great pain near the vertebral column. He was ordered a low diet, leeches, and mucilaginous drinks, and the symptoms appeared a little soothed by this treatment; but on the tenth day, after a fit of coughing, the patient vomited large clots of florid blood and died in less than five minutes. On dissection, marks of pneumonia were found. The œsophagus, about the middle of the chest, presented a large ulceration about the size of a two-shilling piece; the ulceration had extended to the aorta, and occasioned an erosion of it about two inches below its great curvature. At the right of this opening, which was rather less than half an inch in length, a small bone was found of a pyramidal figure, about an inch long, weighing eighteen grains, the upper end of which was very sharp and had penetrated from the œsophagus into the aorta. It was afterwards discovered that the young man had swallowed the bone about eight or ten days previously to his coming into the hospital.

#### MATERIA MEDICA.

##### *On the efficacy of the Sub-carbonate of Soda in Bronchocele, or Goitre.*

It is now about four years since Dr. COINDET, of Geneva, communicated to the medical world the singular influence which iodine appeared to exert on bronchocele, and at the present time it maintains a considerable reputation. Dr. PESCHIER, the fellow countryman of Dr. Coindet, has highly eulogised a remedy for the same disease, in a late number of the *Gazette de Santé*; he considers that the sub-carbonate of soda is an equally efficacious and a much less dangerous medicine than iodine, and that it is less likely to disagree with the stomach than the burnt sponge.

The sub-carbonate of soda has been used for a considerable time in this country, but it has not been given to the extent at which Dr. Preschier has prescribed it, nor in such a convenient or agreeable way.

Dr. P. says, that he has employed this medicine with great success at

Geneva, and at the same time that it removed a great many goitres, and diminished the size of many more, it acted in the same manner on many scrofulous tumours and enlarged glands. Farther, that the patients, whilst they were taking it, had their appetites considerably improved, with a corresponding degree of improvement in their general health. "In 1816, four years before M. Coindet had written on the efficacy of iodine, being frequently consulted by persons afflicted with very large goitres, and considering that the burnt sponge had frequently failed to afford any relief in dispersing such swellings, I thought that this alkali might produce good effect. Iodine was then unknown. I gave to some patients a solution of the sub-carbonate of soda, varying its strength and concealing it by the medium in which it was given. The success fully answered my expectations, and even to the present time it has not caused any disappointment.

"I consider it superfluous to mention a great number of cases in which it succeeded, since it is daily found to do so in the hands of the profession. I can assert, that in a short time this remedy acquired, at Aubonne and the neighbouring places, a great reputation, on account of the remarkable property which it displayed in dispersing, or considerably diminishing, bronchoceles. I think, however, that I ought to mention the following case, as it is one of the most remarkable:

"On the first of January, Isabella Cretigny, a young woman about fourteen, came to me at Aubonne; she was very stout and well formed for her age, but had a goitre so large as to give to the neck the appearance of being almost as large in circumference as her head. The principal anxiety, on the part of her parents, was not so much that of removing the deformity occasioned by the tumour, as that of preventing the noise in respiration which she made when asleep. I prescribed for her the sub-carbonate of soda, in the dose of two drachms only in the day, at intervals. In about twenty days this enormous goitre had so much diminished that the goit was scarcely recognizable, and I could hardly credit my own eyes. It is but fair that it should be