

they have generally seen their patients limp in whom there was shortening of the limb. If displacements of an angular character, and occasioned by rotation, can be prevented, the result is already satisfactory."—*Edinburgh Medical Journal*.

FUCUS VESICULOSUS AS A REMEDY FOR OBESITY.—M. Duchesne Duparc strongly recommends this plant as a means of diminishing an uncomfortable tendency to obesity. He reports three cases in which its use was attended by a decided diminution in weight, without any other appreciable effect. In one case, the loss was from twelve to fifteen pounds in about two months; in another, the diminution in weight was thirty pounds in three months; in a third, there was a decided relief from the discomfort under which the patient had long labored, but the record is incomplete. The remedy is best administered in the form of alcoholic extract, of which there may be taken as much as three or four grammes daily. Great care should be used in the collection of the fucus, as it is easily confounded with other marine plants, which are entirely inert, so far as the peculiar efficacy of the vesiculosus is concerned.

GUAIACUM AS A REMEDY IN DIPHThERIA.—Mr. West Walker, in the *British Medical Journal*, strongly advises the use of guaiacum in diphtheria. He considers it particularly efficacious in combating the affection of the throat which precedes the membranous exudation and the exhaustion of the system. He gives it in combination with chlorate of potassa, and tincture of cinchona.

TETANUS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY CHLORIDE OF BARIUM.—The *Gazette des Hopitaux* reprints from the *Italian Medical Gazette* the details of a case of tetanus, in which the chloride of barium was successfully administered. It was prescribed in the proportion of sixteen grains to a pint of distilled water, the whole to be taken in the course of twenty-four hours. At the end of the eleventh day the symptoms had nearly ceased, and the dose was reduced to eight grains a day; on the sixteenth day the medicine was discontinued, and the patient left the hospital, well, on the eighteenth day. Several other cases of tetanus are referred to, in which this remedy has been employed with success in Italy, during the past two years.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON: THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1862.

MINIMS OR DROPS?—In conversation with an intelligent apothecary, not long since, we were surprised to learn how generally the medical profession, in writing their prescriptions, disregard the distinction between these two measures of quantity. In looking over a pile of prescriptions on his counter, the sign ℥ hardly occurred in one of them. Now this may seem to be a matter of very little consequence, but it indicates a habit of inexactness which is by no means creditable. The distinction between the two is so marked, and varies so much for different liquids, that we really believe physicians would find it greatly for

Vol. LXVI.—No. 12B

their advantage to adopt the precise measure. In dealing with powerful remedies, it becomes a matter of no little importance to know precisely the amount of the dose administered; and this can never be the case if we trust to a prescription of drops, poured, it may be, from the capacious mouth of some large, dry-lipped vessel by the clumsy hands of an inexperienced apothecary's boy. The oil of bitter almonds has been strongly recommended of late as a means of destroying the offensive taste of cod-liver oil, which it does most effectually. It is about four times as strong as officinal hydrocyanic acid. Such a powerful agent, given, as it is very likely to be, to young children, in this combination, should be measured out with the utmost exactness. Our writers on materia medica, we find, are no more precise than our practitioners in this respect. American writers generally give the dose in drops, or sometimes in drops and in other instances in minims in the same work. English writers, on the contrary, so far as we are acquainted with them, measure the dose uniformly by minims, which is much the best way. To freshen the memory of our readers with regard to the very great difference between minims and drops with different fluids, the same phial being used for pouring, we re-print the following well-known tabular statement, by Mr. Durand, of the number of drops of different liquids equivalent to a fluidrachm:—

| | | | |
|--|-----|--|-----|
| Acid acetic (crystallizable), - - | 120 | Tincture of assafetida, of fox- glove, of guaiac, of opium, } | 120 |
| Acid hydrocyanic (medicinal), - - | 45 | Tincture of muriate of iron - - | 132 |
| Acid muriatic, - - - - - | 54 | Vinegar distilled, - - - - - | 78 |
| Acid nitric, - - - - - | 84 | Vinegar of colchicum, - - - - - | 78 |
| Acid nitric, diluted (1 to 7), - - | 91 | Vinegar of opium (black drop), - | 78 |
| Acid sulphuric, - - - - - | 90 | Vinegar of squills, - - - - - | 78 |
| Acid sulphuric aromatic, - - - - | 120 | Water distilled, - - - - - | 45 |
| Acid sulphuric, diluted (1 to 7), - | 54 | Water of ammonia (strong), - - - | 54 |
| Alcohol, rectified spirit, - - - - | 138 | Water of ammonia (weak), - - - | 45 |
| Alcohol diluted, proof spirit, - - | 120 | Wine Teneriffe, - - - - - | 78 |
| Arsenite of potassa, solution of, - | 57 | Wine antimonial, - - - - - | 72 |
| Chloroform, - - - - - | 260 | Wine of colchicum, - - - - - | 75 |
| Ether sulphuric, - - - - - | 150 | Wine of opium, - - - - - | 78 |
| Oil of aniseed, of cinnamon, of cloves, of peppermint, of sweet almond, of olives, - - - - } | 120 | | |

The difference is also very striking between the number of drops of different liquids equivalent to a fluidrachm, according as they may be poured from a pint or half-pint tincture bottle or a minim measure.

RECOVERY AFTER SEVERE BODILY INJURY.—Dr. Alverson, of Marengo, Iowa, reports a case of recovery, after very severe injury to the right arm and right side of the body. On the 10th of October, 1860, the patient—a boy—was caught about midway of the right fore-arm, and drawn between the cog wheels of an iron sugar mill. The extent of the injury, as seen by Dr. A., twenty hours after the accident, is thus described by him:—“The cogs followed up the muscles of the fore-arm and arm without much injury to the bone except the elbow joint. The ulna was partially dislocated backwards. After passing up to the shoulder, the cogs caught him in the axilla, passing along in a circular course, crushing the second, third and fourth ribs, also crushing the sternum, passing on to the left nipple, where it stopped, injuring only the flesh on the left breast. On the posterior wall of the chest, the scapula was perforated by three cogs, and the flesh mutilat-

ed around close to the spinal column." The patient was found with hard breathing, pulse 130, and the right lung collapsed. The flesh had closed up, leaving no opening internally. Five drops of the tincture of veratrin was ordered every four hours, a cathartic given, and the wounds dressed. Next day, pulse the same, wounds inflamed, and patient restless. Oct. 13th, pulse 140, no appearance of suppuration. 14th, pulse 120, and some symptoms of gangrene. Wounds kept wet with cold water and spirits of camphor, equal parts. 15th, pulse 130 and wiry; veratrin continued. 16th, suppuration slight; pulse 120. 17th, suppuration going on freely, and air from the wound in the sternum. Simple ointment for dressing. Air and pus continued to escape, and on the 21st nearly all the flesh from his breast had sloughed off, the heart, lungs and stomach partially exposed to view. The heart sac was plainly seen, and showed every beat of the heart. A small portion of the left lung was seen to act. The shoulder blade and parts of broken ribs also exposed to view. A weak solution of tincture of iodine, by means of a syringe, also of creosote, and an ointment of equal parts of sweet oil and beeswax, were used for three weeks, with general treatment. At the end of two months the wounds closed, and the right lung began to act. In nine months the right lung had filled out, in a great measure, the depression in the chest. Feb. 25th, 1862, the patient seemed sound and well, but with his arm a little crooked and a small spot not yet healed—also frightful scars on the arm and chest.

VITAL STATISTICS OF MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.—From the number of *The Medical Record* for Nov. 24, 1861, published in Melbourne, we learn that the number of deaths in that city and suburbs for the quarter ending Sept. 30th, was 770—of which 357 were under 5 years of age, and 413 over 5 years; males 449, females 321. The population is estimated at 139,991. The mean temperature of the quarter was 51. From zymotic diseases there occurred 231 deaths, or 30 per cent.; from sporadic diseases, 103, or 13.38 per cent.; diseases of the nervous system, 109—14.16 per cent.; of the respiratory system, 170—22.08 per cent.; circulatory system, 29—3.76 per cent.; of the digestive organs, 45—5.84 per cent.; of the urinary organs, 9—1.17 per cent.; generative organs, 9—1.17 per cent.; locomotive organs, 2—.26 per cent.; integumentary system, 2—.26 per cent.; old age, 6—.78 per cent.; external causes, 50—6.49 per cent.; undescribed, 5—.65 per cent.

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION IN PROVIDENCE, R. I.—Dr. Snow, the City Registrar of Providence, states that no death from smallpox has occurred in that city since the 1st of March, and only four through the winter, although there were at one time more than thirty cases of smallpox and varioloid in different parts of the city. There are now only two cases known in the city, the disease having been arrested by a prompt attention to vaccination. Since the 1st of January, Dr. S. says, 1,194 persons have been vaccinated or re-vaccinated at the office of the superintendent of health, and a still larger number, probably, by physicians in private practice.

STATE HOMŒOPATHIC SOCIETY IN NEW YORK.—In the New York Assembly, recently, at Albany, Dr. Bowen reported back, for the consideration of the

House, a bill to incorporate the State Homœopathic Society. In introducing the report, Dr. Bowen gave expression to his views of the matter as follows:—

Mr. Speaker,—The Committee are unanimous in giving this direction to this bill from the honorable Senate. In the few remarks which I had the honor to make before the House a few days since, when homœopathy was alluded to by an honorable gentleman, in connection with printing the Transactions of the State Medical Society for the use of each member and officer of the House, I took occasion to say that when this bill should come before us, I should make no factious opposition thereto. This is why I have agreed to the report that has just been offered; and while I thus disclaim any particular hostility to the measure, I wish to rid myself of the least seeming affiliation to what I have ever considered a sublimated species of charlatanry. Sir, it is one of those delusions, like spirit-rapping, and others of a kindred nature, which have their day, and are destined to disappear; and I challenge the most ardent of its votaries to point to one single improvement which has ever emanated therefrom, either in hygiene, medicine or surgery.

DR. W. H. CHURCH, of New York city, Medical Director of Gen. Burnside's army corps, says the *American Medical Times*, successfully ligated the external iliac artery after the battle of Roanoke Island. It is also stated that the surgeon of a New York regiment ligated the common iliac after the affair of the Merrimac at Fortress Monroe.

Of the 26,265 births in Scotland during the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1861, 23,744 were legitimate, and 2,521 illegitimate, being in the proportion of one illegitimate in every 10.4 births, or 9.59 per cent. of the births as illegitimate; and corresponding closely with the results of previous quarters.

Dr. Isaac I. Hayes, commander of the late Arctic Exploring Expedition, has been nominated by the President for the post of Brigade Surgeon, and confirmed by the Senate.

VITAL STATISTICS OF BOSTON.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH, 1862.

DEATHS.

| | Males. | Females | Total. |
|---|--------|---------|--------|
| Deaths during the week, | 31 | 47 | 78 |
| Average Mortality of the corresponding weeks of the ten years, 1851-1861, | 36.8 | 39.0 | 75.8 |
| Average corrected to increased population, | .. | .. | 84.55 |
| Deaths of persons above 90, | .. | .. | .. |

Mortality from Prevailing Diseases.

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------|------------|------------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Phthisis. | Chol. Inf. | Croup. | Scar. Fev. | Pneumonia. | Variola. | Dysentery. | Typ. Fev. | Diphtheria. |
| 13 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

METEOROLOGY.

From Observations taken at the Observatory of Harvard College.—For the week ending April 5th.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---|--------|
| Mean height of Barometer, | 30.075 | Highest point of Thermometer, | 51.0 |
| Highest point of Barometer, | 30.388 | Lowest point of Thermometer, | 24.0 |
| Lowest point of Barometer, | 29.350 | General direction of Wind, | E.S.E. |
| Mean Temperature, | 39.2 | Am't of Rain (inches), | 0.30 |

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.—Dr. E. H. Parker's Annual Address before the Medical Society of the State of New York and the Members of the Legislature.—A Description of Dr Lambert's newly-invented Tourmiquet, for the use of Armies and Employment in Civil Life.—Advance sheets of Dr. L. Marshall's unpublished work on "The Action of the Voluntary Muscles."—Dr. W. E. Coale's Essay on Aneurism, re-published from this JOURNAL.—The Surgical Adjuvant, and Reporter of Surgical Apparatus, Artificial Limbs, &c. By E. D. Hudson, M.D., New York.

DIED.—In Watertown, April 15th, Hiram Hosmer, M.D., 63 years 7 months.—In Hinsdale, Dr. Benjamin F. Kittredge, one of the oldest practitioners in Western Massachusetts.

DEATHS IN BOSTON for the week ending Saturday noon, April 19th, 78. Males, 31—Females, 47.—Apoplexy, 1—disease of the brain, 1—bronchitis, 3—burns, 1—cancer (of the ear), 1—cholera morbus, 1—consumption, 13—convulsions, 2—croup, 1—diphtheria, 1—dropsy of the brain, 5—drowned, 1—epistaxis, 1—erysipelas, 2—scarlet fever, 7—gangrene (of the leg), 1—disease of the heart, 1—infantile disease, 2—intemperance, 1—intussusception, 1—disease of the kidneys, 1—laryngitis, 1—congestion of the lungs, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 6—measles, 3—old age, 2—pertussis, 1—premature birth, 2—puerperal disease, 2—sore throat, 1—suicide, 1—unknown, 9—worms, 1.

Under 5 years of age, 39—between 5 and 20 years, 3—between 20 and 40 years, 20—between 40 and 60 years, 12—above 60 years, 4. Born in the United States, 56—Ireland, 16—other places, 7.