To the Subscribers of the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal.

Since the notice on the cover of the Journal was printed, which announced that the undersigned had undertaken its Editorial management, unforeseen circumstances have occurred which render it necessary for them to decline the undertaking—should other arrangements be made for the continuance of the work, due notice will be given to its subscribers.

JOSEPH A. EVE, M. D.
I. P. GARVIN, M. D.

Augusta, Oct. 16th, 1839.
ADDRESS TO THE CLASS, ON OPENING THE COURSE OF LECTURES IN THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA, THE 17TH OF OCTOBER, 1837. BY PAUL F. EVE, M. D., PROFESSOR OF SURGERY AND DEAN OF THE FACULTY.

Gentlemen:

It has been thought proper, under the present organization of our School of Medicine, to deliver but one public lecture, instead of occupying, as heretofore, the first week by an Introductory on each day; and through the kindness of my colleagues, I have been made the humble instrument of welcoming you, at this time, to the Medical College of Georgia. In the name of the Faculty, whom you have honored by your presence on this interesting occasion, I bid you welcome, thrice welcome, within these walls, dedicated to the science of Medicine. We would hail you, as youthful but zealous votaries, aspiring after the honors of a profession, whose exercise is the preservation of life and health; whose office is the doing of good: and as this hour may be supposed to have been set apart to initiate you to the advantages held out to students by our College, nothing
seems more appropriate than to devote it to the brief consideration of this object. This too will enable you to decide, if we have voluntarily assumed solemn responsibilities without due deliberation, or have assumed important duties without the requisite preparations for their faithful performance.

The early history of the Medical College of Georgia, like that of many individual enterprises, the success of which has so greatly distinguished our country among the nations of the earth, presents a striking example of what may be accomplished by industry and perseverance. On this day five years ago, the first Introductory lecture was delivered in the Masonic Hall of this city. We were then without a suitable Building and almost alike destitute of Anatomical Museum, Chemical Apparatus, Library, and nearly all other conveniences for carrying on our College operations. As early, however, as 1827, the idea was suggested by a member* of the present Faculty, of establishing a Medical Academy in this place. In the winter of 1830, a charter was granted by the Legislature of this State to the Medical College of Georgia, empowering its Trustees to confer the degree of Doctor of Medicine upon those, who had complied with the requisitions demanded by the most respectable Medical Schools of the United States. In the summer of 1832, the Faculty was organized by the election of six Professors, five of whom still hold office in the College; and during the winter of 1832, '33, the first regular course of lectures was delivered in two rooms, temporarily fitted up in the city Hospital, to a class of twenty-seven students, four of whom were graduated at the first commencement.

From the Legislature of 1833, we received a donation of ten thousand dollars, and from the City Council of Augusta, five thousand more, by guaranteeing medicines and medical services to the Hospital for ten years. With the fifteen thousand dollars thus obtained, this edifice was erected on this lot, generously ceded to us by the Trustees of Richmond Academy. During the winter of 1833, '34, the class in attendance amounted to thirty, and at the second commencement, the degree of M. D. was conferred upon fifteen approved Candidates.

*Dr. Antony.
Early in the Spring of 1831, the Faculty raised, upon their own responsibility the sum of ten thousand dollars, and dispatched to Europe one of the Professors,* to purchase an Anatomical Museum, Chemical Apparatus, Surgical Cabinet, &c. for the use of the College. At the unanimous request of the Faculty, the Trustees appointed this year the present Professor† of Physiology and Pathological Anatomy, Adjunct to the Professorship then existing of Anatomy and Physiology. The class of '34, '35, numbered thirty-seven, and its Graduates fifteen.

Aware of the defects, and the want, especially of system, in the course of instruction pursued in the Medical Schools of the United States, and feeling the necessity of some uniform standard of qualifications for Candidates for the honors of the profession, in May, 1835, our Faculty respectfully addressed a Circular to every Medical College of our country, calling their attention to these subjects, and recommending a Convention, to be held at Washington City to correct these evils, and to adopt such other measures as might be calculated to promote the general welfare of the medical Profession. The number of delegates to be sent from each School, and their time of meeting, were left, in compliment, to the University of Pennsylvania, the oldest medical Institution in the United States. Her Faculty, however, declined taking any interest in these objects, and our proposition, which had been favorably considered by some of the other Medical Colleges, consequently failed in effecting any good end. Posterity will judge of the liberality and wisdom of that act, which has deliberately rejected medical reformation at the present day, and in a country too, where from the grossest abuses in medicine, its practice has almost ceased to be honorable among men. Spirits of Shippen, Rush and Wistar, and thou time-honored Father of American Surgery,‡ upon whom have your mantles fallen!

But we rejoice to know that the spirit of reformation is aroused in our land. A voice has just been heard in a distant section of our country, loudly proclaiming the necessity for a

*Dr. Dugas.
†Dr. Newton, now Professor of Anatomy, (1838.)
‡Dr. Physick died the 15th Dec. 1837.
National Medical Society,* and but recently, the abuses in the present system of Medical Education, have been forcibly presented to the Legislature of our sister state, by one of the distinguished Professors of her Medical College.† In fact, so urgent is the demand for amelioration in the course of instruction, now generally adopted in the medical Schools of the United States, that a prolongation of the ordinary term of lecturing, is already proposed in more than one of them. And may it not be expected, that when the time for action arrives on this all-important subject, as, come it must, and will be prayed for most devoutly by every friend of the Profession and of well regulated Society, this College, which breathed the spirit of reformation in her very infancy, will not then be found wanting?

A second successful application for pecuniary aid, was made by our Trustees to the Legislature of 1835, and most gratifying to every friend of science, their most sanguine hopes were fully realized. The state generously gave to our College, all her interest in the premium resulting from the sale of the increased stock of the Bank of Augusta, valued at twenty-five thousand dollars. This has at once relieved the Faculty, liquidated every debt, and provided a fund for contingent expenses.

Owing to the disappointment experienced, from the College Building not having been completed agreeably to contract, and to our being deprived of the valuable services of the present Professor of Physiology and Pathological Anatomy by his departure for Europe,‡ the class of ’35, ’36, amounted only to thirty-two and its Graduates to eight. This we are happy to say is the only exception to the annual increase of the number of Students in our Institution, the only check to her gradual prosperity she has received; and this evidently arose from the causes just assigned. At the last session, with but six Professors, there was a flattering increase to forty-six, being a much larger class than has ever yet been in attendance here. The number who received the Degree last April was fifteen.

†Dr. Moultrie.
‡Dr. Newton, now Professor of Anatomy, (1838.)
Since the past winter, the Trustees of our College have been actively engaged in advancing the interest, and enhancing the value of the course of Instruction, by important additions to the regular lectures. They have, as you are all aware, created two new Professorships, and we honestly believe have been truly fortunate in the election of gentlemen of first rate abilities, who we feel fully persuaded, will give entire satisfaction to the respectable and numerous Class now assembling here. There are eight Professorships in this College, on as many distinct branches of medicine, a number surpassed by none, and found existing in only one other of the medical Institutions of our favored country; and we challenge a better division of the departments of the science in any one of them.

By a very recent ordinance of the City Council of Augusta, the Hospital has been placed in a very respectable condition, and upon a much better system; offering now inducements not only to the sick poor of our city, but to all, who may require medical or surgical aid, for a very trifling consideration. This charitable Institution is entirely under the professional care of the Faculty, and I need scarcely add, your attention will be directed to all the interesting cases, which may be introduced into it during the course of lectures.

Besides completing a neat fire-proof house for the purposes of practical Anatomy, entirely apart from the main Building, the Library has been arranged for the reception of books, and many valuable additions have been made to it and the Chemical Laboratory. We have also commenced fitting up an extensive room for a general Museum, and in another one, is placed a grand solar and a superior compound Microscope. An order is now on its way to Europe, and which would have been sent in the spring, but for the difficulty of effecting exchange between the two Countries, for a large accession to our already increasing Library.

In January, 1836, the prospectus of a Southern Medical and Surgical Journal was announced by the Faculty of our College, and in June following the first number was issued from the press. The failure of all similar experiments in this section of our Country, and even that so recently of the Southern Review, in Charleston, have not prevented us from employing our feeble efforts, to be useful in this way, to our day and generation. We would not bury even the one talent, which may have been
committed to our care. The Southern Medical and Surgical Journal has already entered upon its second volume, with an increasing patronage, not only encouraging to its undertakers, but at once securing its complete success.

From this hasty collection of facts connected with the origin and progress of the Medical College of Georgia, you are capable of forming some idea of her actual condition. In the brief space of five years, what has she not effected? What lacks she now for the medical Education of the youth of our Country?—We point you to this Edifice, with its classic exterior and ample accommodation within, alike an ornament to our City and State, and a monument to their munificence, acknowledged by all who have examined it, to be the most appropriate and convenient for Medical purposes in the United States—to that Anatomical Museum, surpassed perhaps by none in our country, for the beauty and usefulness of its preparations—to that Chemical Laboratory, rich in its apparatus for the performance of experiments, to illustrate the various subjects connected with this science—to that Library, containing already many rare and valuable publications, both in the ancient and modern languages—see too that Journal, monthly teeming with original communications of an interesting character, and comprising the latest important intelligence connected with the profession—behold her Professors, already increased to eight, and now prepared to enter upon their respective duties—but above all, see her sixty Graduates, binding up the wounded and healing the diseased in our Southern and Western States; and when you reflect that all these are the fruit of but five year's labor, what, we ask, may not be promised in the future career of this School of Medicine? What has been left undone to render her a blessing to our people?

But this is not all. Connected with the history of the Medical College of Georgia, there is one circumstance which has distinguished her from all similar Institutions of our Country, and upon which perhaps her success thus far has mainly depended. In her very infancy, she has dared to differ from all other Schools in the United States, in the length of the course of instruction.—This may be considered her peculiar and characteristic feature. While the term of lectures in other Colleges is of about four months continuance, the session here is nearly six. Instead of occupying the whole day in delivering lectures for a term of
three and a half to four months, there are but four hours daily, appropriated here to public instruction, and the course is continued from the third Monday in October to the first of April. All the lectures are presented to the Students in the morning, and the after part of the day may be exclusively devoted to demonstrations in Anatomy, and the evening to study. The decided advantages of this plan of instruction in Medicine, must be admitted by all. No one who will reflect on the subject can for a moment hesitate. To a beginner in our science, (and what else are Students,) four lectures daily are as much as his mind can possibly digest; and the regular division of the time, to public instruction, to improvement in practical anatomy and to reading, is infinitely superior to the old system of six successive discourses, and these too, delivered as they are, on different branches of the Profession. The prolonged course, alone, it must be admitted, allows time for minute investigations and manual operations, or study and reflection, for the many various and important preparations for the successful practice of Medicine. It is certainly not alone by hearing lectures on a given subject, that we can derive the most profitable and intimate knowledge of it, but we must thoroughly examine and attentively consider it for ourselves. This which is true of all arts and sciences, is especially so of Medicine. It must be patiently studied for years by all who wish to comprehend the length and breadth, the height and depth of its usefulness to suffering humanity. If the science of Medicine is not secured by the purchase of a patent right, neither is it to be acquired by even the faithful attendance on two short courses of lectures. And it is gratifying for us to know that the protracted system adopted here, is recommending itself in spite of self-interest and prejudice to other Schools, while it has received the uniform and unqualified approbation of our Alumni.

*Notwithstanding the Trustees of the Medical College of Georgia have been compelled, from the want of co-operation on the part of other Schools of Medicine, to forego the advantages of the prolonged Course of Lectures, they are still advocates for it. They believe it offers the best system of instruction to Students. Necessity has alone forced them to the change, (at least for a time,) from six to four months, the period adopted in other Institutions of our country. The Faculty will, however, make all the amends they can for the shortening of the course, by rendering their Lectures as demonstrative as possible, addressing the eye as well as the ear.
Among the advantages held out to Students of medicine in this place, not the least important is that offered by the present organization of the Medical Society of Augusta. This Body holds its meetings every two weeks in the library room, to which all connected with the Profession are admitted, and the regular business is the reading of an Essay and its discussion, in which each member successively engages. An opportunity is thus afforded of either confirming the truth presented, or of correcting an error which may have been committed in the lecture-room; while the attention of all present is necessarily directed to the elucidation of one particular subject.

Besides the advantages presented here, by the prolongation of the ordinary term of lecturing, which, if it be not superior, at least obviates one serious objection not only experienced, but even complained of by other medical Schools, and those already enumerated, there are other circumstances which should induce you to obtain your medical Education at the South. Apart from that State pride which every true patriot must ever feel glowing in his bosom, and of that duty which every good citizen owes to the encouragement of home Institutions, where under heaven can you so properly investigate the diseases peculiar to ourselves? In no other place do they occur with precisely the same type, and hence the utter impossibility of examining them elsewhere to the same advantage. A great deal, it will be confessed, has been written on diseases peculiar to each climate, but without exaggerating the importance of investigating them where they prevail endemically, there is one view of this subject which exemplifies not only the propriety, but even the very necessity of studying them at home. Granting that Medicine as a science is based upon certain general and well established principles, the correct and intimate knowledge of which is as essential to the safe and skilful Physician under the Equator, as at the Poles; and admitting too, that these general principles can be equally acquired at any medical College, be its situation where it may, still would you not expect a marked difference between the information given here at the South and that at the north, on the diseases to which the negro is most subject. Where would you go to study with most profit, his peculiar habits, the causes, progress, and more especially the proper treatment of his particular affections? Would it be among the Abolitionists
of the North, the Colonizationists of the West; or would it not rather be here, in this his native place, the sunny South, where in despite of abuses and insults heaped upon us, he is better clothed, fed and provided for? Now the blacks comprise about one half of our entire population; in some of our adjoining States they even out number the whites, and they are precisely that class of our community first committed to the professional care of the young physician. Self-interest then, and the pure dictates of humanity, conspire to urge upon you the importance of this subject, the acquisition of that knowledge at home which you can never obtain abroad to the same advantage.

Let me not however be misapprehended. I would not be understood as undervaluing the medical Schools of other sections of our country, or as even drawing invidious comparisons. I hope I would not be so recreant to every sense of justice, nor so destitute of every feeling of gratitude. All that is intended by the remarks on this subject, is to impress upon you not only the propriety in the very nature of things, but the importance, even the necessity of acquiring as far as practicable, your medical Education at the South. The knowledge of Medicine which you can obtain here or in Charleston, will but the better prepare you to profit by what may be presented you abroad. But in your visit to the North, permit me to make one suggestion, abundantly confirmed both by reason and experience. It is this, more benefit can be derived there by southern Students, from attending a summer course of lectures, than from those delivered during the winter. Besides the rooms being less crowded and the greater length of the days, the Hospitals can then be visited with much greater advantage. There is far more time in the summer for observation and research, and the diseases of that season will approach much nearer the type and character of our own.

So far, however, from rendering myself obnoxious to the charge of illiberality by what has been said, or of referring to subjects calculated to excite prejudice against medical Institutions situated in other sections of our country, I have even purposely avoided alluding to the out-breaking of feeling last winter, in opposition to the whole southern medical Students in the City of brotherly love, or to the recent unhappy disclosures about the oldest school of the West. So far too, from discouraging
you from visiting other Colleges and Universities where our science is taught, I can but wish that each and every one of you, may not only enjoy all the advantages and privileges possessed by our country, but those also which exist in foreign Lands. But when you do go forth into the world, I would have you fully prepared to profit by all you may observe in the profession while absent, and convert every fact you may receive abroad to usefulness in your practice at home—carrying with you not only Southern feelings and republican principles, but American, Southern theories of Medicine.

Some consideration too with a southern Student of medicine is the congeniality of our climate compared with the rigors of a northern winter. There are here not only fewer temptations to dissipation and less to attract attention from study, but there is also a better security for the continuance of health. We are actually capable of effecting more at home, in the way of preparation for the important duties of life, than we can any where else.

Another reason why a Southern Institution of medicine should be patronised by her own citizens, is the improvement it will necessarily induce in the science, for the cultivation of which it has been established. Its immediate privileges, though confined to a few, will be of essential benefit to the whole community. It offers advantages to all connected with the profession, more especially to Students; gives an impulse to its cultivators; elevates its character; and sends out an influence which will be felt in the remotest regions. No one can calculate the value of the impression already made in the science throughout our Southern States, by the Schools of Charleston and Augusta; nor predict the inestimable blessings they are destined to confer upon our people, sustained as they now are in the good work, by the extensive circulation of the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal. Were now, I would ask, the necessity for either patients going North to derive the full benefits of the healing art, or of Students to obtain a complete medical Education?

And where, Gentlemen, else than here, does there exist a greater necessity for the creation and endowment of just such an Institution, as this is designed to be, for the good of the Medical profession, and the safety and welfare of Society?

Here, where Medicine was degraded by the last Legislature of Georgia, to the abject condition of the vilest, murderous and
most nefarious trade, by an association with mercenary vendors of patent-rights and other nostrums, of the most specious but grossest imposition upon a too confiding and too credulous public—here, where Medicine which had engaged some of the best and most talented in every age and country, and been respected, honored and cherished by the laws of every civilized nation under the sun, was publicly declared by a solemn and deliberate act of the Legislature, to be no longer deserving its fostering care and protection—here, where Medicine is not acknowledged by the laws of the land to be a science, and where there are no restraints to its abuse in practice, where it is denied being worthy of study, and its profession daily ceasing to be honorable; its accumulated facts and learning pronounced to be useless, and the whole science taught to be comprehended in a patented pill, a vegetable powder, or boiling water—and all this by a State which had just appropriated thirty-five thousand dollars to endow a College, for the cultivation of this very rejected science of Medicine. Nothing it seems can equal the folly of this act of the last Legislature, but the height of its own inconsistency. Another such, and the moralist might have appropriated to Georgia, the interrogatories of an ancient Prophet of Israel, who when mourning over the desolations of his country, exclaimed, is there no balm in Gilead, is there no Physician there?

As Georgians, Southern men, real Students of Medicine, you are called upon to sustain this much abused, but little comprehended, this neglected and now degraded, this noble, this God-like Profession. And is it not essential to study man, before being qualified to practice Medicine? The Author of the Universe, when he bowed the heavens and came down upon the earth, as the Saviour of mankind, delighted while he tabernacled in the flesh, to heal the sick, restore the blind and relieve the lame. As the Creator of man, He had of course the most intimate and perfect knowledge of his very wonderful and complicated structure. We read indeed in holy writ, that supernatural power to cure diseases, was given to the immediate followers and disciples of our Lord and Master; but we have also been taught to believe, that the day of miracles has long since closed. Men, however, have arisen in the nineteenth century, who, if they have not discovered the royal, at least have invented an
easy and gilded road to the hill of Medical science, on which too, its travellers are rapidly, if not recklessly, propelled by the present popular locomotive agent. This system of medicine acts in unison with that spirit of the day, now threatening our country with the destruction of all order in society; the spirit of agrarian mobocracy. It denies the necessity for study or application to the arts and sciences; it declares all knowledge to be intuitive; it would destroy all distinctions among men, and place the ignorant and the wise, the dolt and the talented, the sluggard and the industrious upon the same footing. It is at variance with reason, common sense and the natural order of things; it sets at defiance all philosophy; it makes even the creature arrogate superior power and attributes to the Creator, for we know God made man ere He cured his diseases. No, Gentlemen, whatever others may think and practice on this subject, we act here upon the principle and axiom, that it is impossible for him who has no knowledge of man, to know medicine. And relying upon your support, and the good sense and intelligence of our people, we will proceed to instruct you to the utmost of our preparations and abilities, in this much persecuted and slandered, but most benevolent and useful science; teaching you that Profession, which our Saviour honored with its exercise when going about doing good.

ARTICLE II.

Medical Electricity. By M. Antony, M. D., &c.

Electricity is a subject from which the mind of the pathologist and the therapist has been repelled by the idea of great power. The medical philosopher has been accustomed to contemplate this agent in view of its severe, or its destructive influence. He contemplates the convulsive action arising in obedience to its impulse on the animal nerve—the riven oak after the thunder
storm—the mighty ruin of cities after earthquakes—and the blazing ebullitions of the volcano; and in the immortality of his mind, extending the thought to other worlds, he contemplates it operating through inconceivable distance and with incalculable power on bodies of immeasurable magnitude, not only sustaining, but propelling them in the immense orbits around their common focus; and again, stretching the imagination beyond the limits of human senses and the power of the lens, he theorises, and this whole system, from its centre to its yet undiscovered circumference, is found, by an immense duplication of this agent, whirling around another centre, until the mind is lost in its abstraction from every thing which his senses can realize to him as truth—thus forgetting to contemplate and adore the infinite intelligence and power which created and preserves the universe, he drops back into the mean conclusion that it is a power intangible and unavailable for the minor philosophy of life, disease, &c. Here the subject is dismissed from the mind's presence, without once turning to the other extremity of this infinite physical agent. It is seen in the wild and destructive tornado, but not in the gentle zephyr—it is seen in the vivid lightning and in the immense velocity of Jupiter or Herschellium Sidus in its orbit, but not in the gentle growth of a plant or flower—it is seen in the Aurora Borealis, but not in the human eye—it is felt in the discharge of the electric battery, but not comprehended in the action of a muscle—it is contemplated in the motions caused by its transitions for restoration of equilibrium, but not in the repose of nature which that equilibrium alone can secure. Let the mind extend its grasp and comprehend the vastness of power, and the ubiquity of this agent, and rapt by the sublimity he contemplates, bow in humble reverence and adoration before Him who created! Here is the end of the contemplation of the infinite greatness and power. But not less adorable is that same Creator when he is contemplated in the minuteness and delicacy with which he has endowed this agent. Turning the attention in this direction, we find here, as well as in the great fields of grandeur and sublimity we have contemplated, a wise and kind adaptation of power to purpose—an agent capable, not only of being the physical cause of the smallest events; but even of the primeval stillness and repose in which nature rested before the worlds were.
In this contemplation are to be found materials for all minute philosophy, and amongst the rest, for that of physiology, pathology and therapeutics.

We have, as before intimated, long entertained physiological and pathological views materially different from the received doctrines in these important departments of medical science—views fairly deduced from the elementary truths of nature, and which make up a philosophy of life and of disease, not only essentially different from doctrines received as orthodox in the present age, but in many particulars actually adverse thereto. We have for many years regretted the want of opportunity for placing them before the medical public. We have not hesitated, (as we believe others have ever done with regard to some of the plainest facts of observation) to bring these doctrines before the public, from the fear of ridicule—a penalty too often suffered by innovators on received doctrines, however false, and even absurd and ridiculous these may be; for we feel that our conclusions are enabled, by their inherent power of demonstrable truth, to withstand alone, the combined opposition of all other doctrines, and the uncharitable illiberalities of differing doctrinarians. But we have thought it indispensable to their ready comprehension and adoption, that the whole elements should be at once fully laid before the public, and their truth demonstrated.

In consequence of the want of time and other means necessary for such a preparation for the press, this has not been, nor can it at present be done. Meanwhile, we need not withhold from the readers of our journal, the purpose of which is mainly, practical utility, therapeutical facts in connexion therewith, which, whilst they tend to draw the mind to the contemplation of the more minute operations of the great physical agent, are available for convenience, as well as the most important purposes in practice.

Eclectic medicine adopts well substantiated facts, without awaiting their suggestion by such imperfect and fanciful theories as may be entertained; and uses these facts both for practical utility and for the development of sound philosophy. These well substantiated facts may be used, and cannot fail to be found beneficial in the treating of disease, as well as in reasoning back to first principles in life, health and disease.
Although we have long been impressed with a sense of the duty of calling the attention of the profession to the application of electricity and galvanism to therapeutic purposes, we have been impelled to the discharge of that duty at this time, by the presentation of the following translation by the fair hand of a young female friend, who had observed the pleasure which we enjoyed on witnessing the salutary effects of "the Box," as it is called, in the resolution of some inflammatory affections to which it had been applied. The translation is from an old French manuscript, the authorship of which is not certainly known. The author appears not to have well understood the science of electricity; but to have arrived at his practical facts by close observation of the truths presented to him. Thus it appears he has arrived at a practice with "the box" which we shall call the electrical box, on principles in strict conformity with the laws of electricity, without understanding them.

The manuscript is a very old one, and must have been written at a day long anterior to the present most improved pathological views; but if we may judge by the directions of the author with regard to the application of the electrical box to many cases we should say that his experiments and observations have brought him to apply his remedy in a manner much more consistent with true pathology, than the generally received doctrines of the present day would have taught him; and that too, without seeming to have any particular pathology in the cases, in the abstract. This arrival at therapeutic accuracy without the guidance of theory, and perhaps in opposition to any theory extant in his day, stands forth in good proof of the correctness of a more humoral doctrine than that which has pervaded the world for the last fifteen years.

In speaking of electricity as a therapeutic agent, it is to be understood however, that it is one, calculated peculiarly to act on the excitements of the body. Whatever of humoral doctrine* may belong to true pathology, these (excitements) cannot be denied an important place in the constitution of disease; and their correction, one of the most important of therapeutic purposes. So far then as the fulfilment of this purpose may conduce

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*We do not mean antient humoralism, precisely, but a due regard to the state of the fluids.
to the correction of secretions by the return of healthy action, and no further, we may reasonably look for good from the application of electricity. Nor would we pretend to ask, for electricity as a therapeutic agent, a confidence in a uniformity of good effect beyond that of many other remedies in doing good by producing their own peculiar effects on the system.

Morphine will not always procure sleep, or ease from pain; nor is it always salutary in its effects when it does. Calomel cannot always cure disease, notwithstanding it may operate finely on the hepatic secretion when this seems to be the most needed. Nor will it always salivate when intended to do so, nor cure the disease for which it is prescribed, if it do salivate. Nor may electricity be expected to be so guided by sound pathology in every application as to effect a cure, even in cases which are not beyond the reach of all remedies; many of which are presented for the consideration of the practitioner. But there are benefits derivable from the agency of electricity and of galvanism which are less injurious, less unpleasant, and in very many instances far more beneficial than can be drawn from the materia medica.

Preparation of the Box, and the manner of using it on different occasions.

Preparation—On opening the box, rub the cake of sulphur on a piece of white flannel, which should be doubled several times and fixed on a piece of board. Observe in rubbing the cake, to turn it always in the same direction 150 or 200 times, which will be found sufficient to animate it. In order to ascertain if the cake is sufficiently animated, before closing the box, bring it to one finger's length from the thread appended to the board. If it should attract the thread with great force, you may then know that the cake is sufficiently animated. You may then close the box. Place the silk bag* with care fully over the box, leaving the top of the box uncovered, where the cake adheres.† It is this extremity of the cake that

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*It should be remarked here, that the box is covered with two bags of silk made to fit it; one of which is kept between the fingers and the body of the box for insulation, and the other in like manner for handling the cover on re-applying it. En.

†It will be perceived that the box itself is here called the top, for it is the box itself in which the cake is fixed. It is also observable that in the above directions, it is the bottom of the box to which the electric is attached that is directed to be applied; but such is not the usage with those who apply
must be placed on the most painful part, taking care that your
fingers do not touch the cake that is uncovered; for if, by acci-
dent, you do, it will materially affect the fluid.

Duration of the application. The application may be contin-
ued from twenty to thirty minutes, and you should, before mak-
ing use of the box, see that the patient have taken nothing into
the stomach for an hour before; but if so, wait about an hour
before you apply it.

Remedies and Drugs opposed to the effect. All remedies are
opposed to the good effect of the box,* especially plasters. You
must observe never to apply the box on any part which has been
greased; but if any grease or salve shall have been applied to
the part, be very particular to wash it off; as without so doing,
no good can be derived from the treatment, and it would only
be apt to break the box.† You must also be very particular
not to apply any water to the place for some time after the ap-
plication of the box. The cake and the flannel should be kept
very clean and dry. In damp weather you may perceive that
the cake is very difficult to animate. You may then warm the
cake by holding it near the fire, to facilitate the preparation.

Treatment of Pleurisy. Two boxes are necessary for this
treatment, one on the pit of the stomach, and the other on the
side. At the same time, if you have but one box, apply it to the
pit of the stomach fifteen minutes—animate the cake about two
minutes after for fifty seconds. You may then leave it for
twenty-five minutes.

Treatment of sick headache occurring in Pleurisy. If the pa-
tient have sick headache and you have two boxes, apply one to
the head above the pain, and the other on the side.‡ If you
have but one box, after having applied it on the side, you may
place it on the head.§ At first, two applications will be neces-
sary in twenty-four hours; but after the first two or three days,
one will suffice. In all cases, the sooner the application is made,
the better it will be.

*We suppose the author means, topical remedies. Ed.
†We suppose the author only means to guard against a useless applica-
tion. Ed.
‡Of course, the diseased side is meant by the author. Ed.
§It appears from this direction and that for sick headache in malignant
fever, that, in case of there being but one box, it is a rule to apply it first to
the leading or original disease. Ed.
Treatment of Malignant Fever. Apply the box to the pit of the stomach. After having held it there for ten minutes, you may slide it in the direction of the ribs until you come to the side, where you may leave it fifteen minutes.* You must first be very sure that the box is sufficiently heated.† If it were not, after the first fifteen minutes, you may turn it thirty or fifty times.

If the patient have a sick headache also, and you have two boxes, you may place one at the same time on the most painful parts. If you have but one, after having made the application on the stomach and on the liver, you may place it on the pain in the head. In the commencement of the sickness, you may apply the box twice in twenty-four hours. The fever generally changes in three or four days; you may then apply the box once a day, as the fever declines. You should continue this treatment for eight or ten days after the fever has left.

Intermittent Fever. This fever is treated by applying the box on the pit of the stomach, where you are to leave it ten or fifteen minutes. You may then slide it the length of the false ribs until you reach the liver, where you may leave it fifteen minutes. It is much better to make use of this application on the days of intermission; however, in case of necessity, you may apply it on the day of the fever: but it should be used as near as possible, before or after the fever, as otherwise it sometimes increases it.

Bilious Colic. Leave the box on the pit of the stomach for ten minutes; you then let it slide slowly until you reach the navel, where you leave it for five minutes. You may then place it on the pit of the stomach again. You then slide it the length of the side, until you reach the liver, where you leave it ten minutes.

You must observe never to slide the box upwards, nor cross-wise, but always downward, or place it immediately on the part that is affected.

An effusion of troublesome Bile. The patient must lose no time, when he feels a trouble of this kind, but apply the box on the stomach and then on the liver. Two or three applications are sometimes sufficient for a cure.

In severe cold in the head. Place the box on the front of the head until you reach the roots of the hair—let it slide slowly down to the nostril on both sides of the nose, alternately leaving it for a minute on each side of the nose. After having applied it ten or fifteen minutes in this manner, you may then slide it from the length of the forehead until you reach the ear, leaving it there for a minute or two.

*We presume that hypochondrium is meant, where the liver is. Ed.
†This evidently means, the electric is sufficiently excited. Ed.
Nephritic Colic. Place the box on the pit of the stomach, then slide it to the navel, where leave it several minutes on the most painful part.

Disorder of the stomach. Place the box on the most painful part. When changing the box from place to place, observe never to slide it upwards; it should always be passed downward.

Rheumatic Pain. Place the box directly on the part affected. If the pain is fixed you may slide the box downward, but if it is not fixed, and the patient has suffered for a great while with the aforesaid pain, it will be necessary to make use of the box for thirty to fifty minutes every day. For a cold, three or four applications are generally sufficient.

Wet Nurses. Wet nurses who are subject to pain in the breast, have found themselves entirely cured by means of this application. In this case, this instrument should be used as early as possible, in the manner above mentioned in other cases.*

Sore Throat. Application of the box, local.

Sore Eyes. For sore eyes, the box should be held lightly on the eyelid, and often removed.

Blows, Bruises, &c. Place the box on the bruise, or part most painful, leaving it there for some time. Bleeding is not necessary in these cases; but the application should be made as soon as possible. The danger of the disease stops after the first application. Two applications are necessary during the day. If there is danger of extravasation of blood, continue the application for several days.

Treatment of Children. There is no danger in making use of the box in the diseases of Children. So contrary is the fact, that it affords them more sure relief.† There is however this difference to be observed in the use of the box with them, that it should not be so much animated as for adults; and it should be held lightly on the part that is to be treated, about ten minutes.

General observations. The use of the box is admissible in all the diseases to which the human body is subject; the only prerequisite being to discover the part affected, in order to make the application. The great merit of this remedy is in establishing the regular course of the humours; and it is often the case

*This is a case in which, more than any other, we have had the pleasure of witnessing the salutary influence of the electrical box. For the last twenty years we have been depended on for services by most of the French families in this place; amongst whom, and some of their immediate friends, the electrical box has been in use, and have known of its frequent application; but we do not recollect to have ever witnessed amongst them, a breast which suppurated. Ed.

†I have found this eminently the case in the use of galvanism. Ed.
that these erroneous directions of the humours are caused by too much or too little perspiration, the patient must observe care in sheltering himself from cold or dampness, at least during the treatment.

We have gleaned from the manuscript the following additional particulars relative to the application to other cases. *

**Toothache and Inflammations.** In these cases the electric was rubbed about 200 times. The box was then shut and insulated by the silk, except the top, and given to the patient who held it on the painful part for fifteen minutes. The greatest part of the cases of toothache treated in this manner, were cured in the quarter of an hour. In some cases, temporary relief only was obtained—the pain having afterwards returned, requiring several re-applications.

**Interruption of the Courses.** Women who suffer an interruption of the natural courses, have found great relief by passing the box below the stomach. If their courses are still irregular the treatment should be used in the most critical period, † and should be continued at least three or four days. ‡

It is evident, from this manuscript, that the author was not a physician; but that he was a man of science, for his day, and an honest observer. It would be supposed further, that he was a landlord with many tenants, and that these and his own immediate family, were the first and main subjects of his care; and that in consequence of his success with these, others were afterwards induced to visit him from a distance.

Now, even with this view, we should scarcely be inclined to notice statements coming as these have, from an individual not known in the profession, but for some knowledge of their truth from observation, and their analogy to galvanic operations, of which we have had decided experience; and in both of which the great therapeutic fact is established, that the positive pole, or inducing point, produces sedation, or what has in old surgery been called discutient effects, and the negative pole, or point of

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*We find also on seeing the French manuscript, the following caption of a chapter:—"The Friend of Nature. Chap. vii. of Physic." And in pencil, "By Sousselier, Lord of many manors." Ed.

†By this, we understand the author to mean, the time the menses should flow. Ed.

‡In giving the case of his son, aged sixteen, who labored under fever and what he calls putrid looseness, the author dates the case "April, 1783." This gives us some idea of the period of these experiences. Ed.
eduction, on the contrary, exalts the excitement. But so valuable is medical truth, especially such as tends to the immediate amelioration of the sufferings of humanity and disarming the dangers of life, that we should not be afraid nor ashamed to take it wherever we may find it. Every physician is aware of the truth, that most of our valuable practical facts are from the bold and reckless experiments of the unscientific whose ignorance has made them free to experiment where science would, in humanity, have restrained the hand.

The intelligent reader will at once perceive that the apparatus, the use of which is described in the extract we have given, is a kind of economical electrophorus. The specimen before us whilst we write, is a round, tin box, precisely three and a half inches long, including the cover, and two and a half wide. The cover is so made as to fit well on the box, and is itself two and seven-tenth inches long. The box is one and a half inch deep, and is filled with a cake of sulphur which projects half an inch above the upper part and terminates in a plane, polished surface. We have seen some specimens in which there appeared to be some metallic oxyde combined with the sulphur, or the latter had been so burned in preparing it, that its color was materially altered.

This cake of sulphur is an electric, and when the cover is attached to the box, the electric stands in the cavity of the box, intactible.

In the preparation of the box, the two silk bags are used as insulators; one for the box and the other for the cover; but on its application, the insulator is removed from the cover, whilst the box which contains the electric, is held in insulation by having the silk bag over the whole of the tin to where the cover comes. Thus, whatever charge may have been created by the friction, is preserved from every conductor except the atmosphere within the cover. The board which is covered with flannel is about nine inches wide, and is of circular shape; having appended to its edge a light cotton thread about eight inches long.* This thread is the electrometer, and the board covered with flannel is the exciter or rubber.

*Which should have a cork or pith-ball attached to its extremity.
The instrument, or electrical box, might be greatly improved by substituting shellac, or amber; or perhaps hard resin or sealing wax, for sulphur.

It is a point on which there is some doubt, whether this apparatus operates by communicating gradually to the part, a positive charge communicated to the box by the excited electric, through the medium of the atmospheric air the box contains; or whether the box remains negative, and by its near approximation to the positively charged electric, acts with power on the positive electricity of the diseased part, by attracting it into itself? To the latter of these opinions, we are most inclined. This opinion is favored by the duration of the power in the box when well excited, or, in the language of the author, "animated." It is also favored by the fact, that in none of the boxes is the electric designed to be so large as to allow its excited edge to touch the sides of the cover when placed on the box. It appears to us that the polished surface of the end of the electric is the only point charged, primarily at least, and that this surface is itself properly insulated from the box by that part of the electric intervening between its excited surface and the edge of the box in which it is incased. But it may be otherwise. It may be the case that the atmosphere within the cover conducts the sensible electricity slowly to the cover: dry, atmospheric air, being a bad conductor. This idea is favored by the fact, that positive electricity and positive galvanism inducted to a part, produce sedation in that part.

Mode of action of the Electric Box. Of the physical power of electricity, galvanism and magnetism on diseases of the human body, there remains now no doubt whatever. No one can dispute this fact who is satisfied with any fact on human testimony; and credence is not asked as an act of abstract faith, nor as the mere suggestion of theory. And if not willing to receive other human testimony than his own, it is his own fault if he do not test the point, which when fairly done will afford him the testimony of his own senses. We should have said there is a class of men whom we may except. There are those, (and there are many of them,) who are always ready to declare against even demonstrated truth, merely because they do not understand the rationale of that truth, or the laws whereby that truth is developed; and such are surely the greatest impediments in the
curriculum of science. We do not intend by this to be understood to mean that men of science should be so credulous as to believe every thing that is told them, on partial or superficial observation. On the contrary, every man who professes fealty to science, should consider that on him rests the responsibility of the guardianship of her treasury of pure and holy truth. He should scrutinize well the facts alleged, and the authority, and investigate well the train of antecedent phenomena which may have existed in the line of causation. But every man of profound science has learned to know that in the immensity of the wisdom with which nature has been wrought, there is often to be found, when least expected by him, the displays of that infinite wisdom to which he is a stranger. Every such man has also learned, whilst he guards well the portals of science against the ruthless entrance of error, to ply well those unalterable laws of philosophising, which are stern enough to turn him against his own vain and pre-conceived notions of the way to truth, and place him in another, and to him a new one, adverse to all his interests of pride, ambition and profit. When a fact is alleged on good authority, such as would be received in other matters, his philosophical investigation of the subject is at least demanded before he can in honesty deny the allegation; because he knows there is no effect without competent and appropriate causation; and that fact therefore declares the existence of this. And he knows that when an effect has been once produced by given causation, that the whole of the same causation must invariably be succeeded by the same results. It is therefore incumbent on him (not to deny the fact, but) to demonstrate the error in the premises, or the cause of it in the conclusion, before he has a right to deny. The denial of a fact alleged on such testimony as we have not reason otherwise to doubt, is a ground which no man has a right to occupy, because no man has a right to suppose there are not still in the arcanae of nature, truths—many truths which he has not in all his wisdom, yet understood. But to return.

Need we allege facts in support of the assertion just made, relative to the truth of the physical agency of electricity, galvanism and magnetism, on the human body, in health and in disease? The reader may prove for himself the power of electricity by the translation of excitement from one site
to another, by the proper application of the current of posi-
tive electricity from a point of increased action, whilst the
subject is insulated, and receiving it from another point. This
we have done in several forming abscesses, and even in a ven-
erial bubo whilst there was the cause of the morbid excitement
still remaining uncorrected. In this case, the bubo, into which
the current from the prime conductor was received, was resolv-
ed, and the point on the leg from which it was educted, (the
subject being on an insulating stool,) was vesicated, and the pa-
tient fainted. It may be exhibited still more simply by the edu-
tion of electricity by acupuncture, from a large joint, for instance,
suffering from acute rheumatism, as in the case related a few
years ago by Baron Dupuytren, who, after introducing some
fifteen or sixteen needles into a rhumatic knee, and connecting
their outward extremities by a wire, obtained sensible sparks.
It is but fair, however, on giving this fact from Dupuytren, to
state that he took special care to say that the relief afforded by
this operation was not attributable to the education of electricity.
But the Baron appears to have been one of those men who are
unwilling to admit the existence of the relation of cause and
effect between successive phenomena, however uniform the se-
quenoe, for no better reason than that they do not themselves
see how, or in what manner, this relationship is exercised. Doubt-
less Dupuytren had not the idea of accumulated electricity in
an inflamed joint, and that too, from the internal resources of the
system, in all his pathology of inflammation or of inflammatory
rheumatism; consequently he could not risk so exalted an opin-
ion as his own on the point in question,—a fact, abstracted from
known theory.

In the application of the box, as above directed, there is but
one point at which the agent acts, and still resolution is gener-
ally the consequence of faithful and timely application. These
three cases illustrate the physical—the therapeutical agency of
electricity, by induction, and by eductive, jointly and severally.

The same may be said of passing a steady current of electricity
into the body at the point of morbid action, without insulation. In
the former of these instances, it is clear that if the box receive a
charge from the charged or excited electric, it must receive it
gradually, and as gradually introduce it in the seat of excessive
action to which it is applied, producing there, its resolvent effects.
whilst the electricity is passed off again diffusively from all other parts of the uninsulated surface: but if the near approximation only tend to increase the negative power of the box, (as such arrangements are wont to do,) this box becomes thereby a more powerful attractor of the positive electricity superabounding in the diseased part, the eduction of which relieves the pain; in which case, it must, according to a well-known law, lessen the accumulated electricity in the part diseased, by attracting it for that equalization to which all electricities tend; and without which tendency, primeval stillness must pervade all the kingdoms of nature.

Of Galvanism the same may be said; for its effects are not less, but even more conspicuous, because it is susceptible of more steady application for a length of time. So signally is the discutient power of galvanism displayed at the positive pole, when the body is not insulated, and the charge is consequently educted by the conductors in contact, or when the eduction is made purposely by insulation and application of an educting conductor to a suitable point at some other place; that whilst the positive pole is in application to one denuded surface and the negative to another, the former point will remain stationary or cicatrize, whilst the latter (the negative,) doubles the intensity of the inflammation which the denuding blister left; and in some instances will spahcetate. This experiment may be made at pleasure by any one not satisfied of the fact.

For nearly twenty years past, we have used this application, in cases of perpetual convulsions and epilepsy in children, with the best effects, as frequently witnessed by physicians and pupils in this place. And so evident has been the power of galvanism that, sometimes, when the plates were removed for cleansing the sores, the convulsions which had been suspended for many hours, or a day or two, have returned in the short space of time occupied in this service; and have again yielded as promptly, to their re-application.

On the physical agency of magnetism in therapeutics, we need only refer our readers to the prompt efficiency of the magnet in removing and restoring pain, as in tic douloureux, in some of the London hospitals.

Whilst these facts of experiment and observation are found to identify the natures of the (so called) three powers, with no
other difference than that of habitue, they tend to the unequivocal establishment of this great therapeutic fact, that whatever may be the true philosophy of inflammation, both the vitrious and metallic electricities, (electricity and galvanism,) if we may pluralise them, are available as amongst the most certain and powerful revellants of excitement the therapeutist has at command. These differ from other revellants, revulsives or translators of action in that the positive pole, exerts a positive discutient or resolvent effect on the morbid action of the part to which it is applied, by a discutient power of that pole; whilst the negative when located or stationary, acts on the part by the same principle as other revulsives, as vescatories, rubefacients, &c. in drawing action to the point, (and fluxion succeeds irritation or increased action,) to the detriment of the excess at the seat of disease.

One box then may be said to act, in effect, as a discutient. How the second box operates, we know not, unless it be conjointly, or simultaneously, or successively in the same manner on another point of morbid action, having the negative pole unlocated, as to apparatus, but every point of conducting contact becoming the negative pole; for we cannot conceive that, when both are similarly charged, (which is the direction) that they can make efficient opposites. Moreover, when there are not two boxes at hand, the same one is directed to be applied to different places, alternately.

Whether, however, the electric box acts by having its negative power increased by the charged electric, and thereby withdraws with the greater attracting force the excess of electricity from the seat of disease; or whether the induction of a current of positive electricity simply repels the positive in the part, it is unimportant in a therapeutical point of view. Let this be referred to the domain of abstract science, when it may be easily determined. Our business is at present with therapeutics. It is well directed, and observed experiments alone which afford us the truth in regard to therapeutic powers. It is from observation chiefly that our knowledge of materia medica is derived, and we are satisfied with the fact of the power of any article or means which we see uniformly and immediately succeeded by another phenomenon, being the cause of that phenomenon. The deduction of the true theory of causation is not more difficult,
because here too the facts as regularly succeed the previous phenomena, in immediate and regular succession.

Healthy and disordered function and condition make up the sum of the phenomena of life, health and disease. Causes precede morbid action, whether of excess or default—this morbid action becomes again the cause of new phenomena, which again are cause of others and so forth, to make up a chain of phenomena consisting of successive cause and effect. Morbid action, whether of excess or default, cannot be without cause, either active or passive, or both. The causes in such cases are morbid action, or excess or defect of material physical power or powers, of a nature disproportioned to the effect of physiological condition and function. So far as action is concerned itself as cause, electricity with its sedative and exciting powers seems to be suitable to the end of changing that action, if it can be properly manipulated: and so far as material physical powers present in the system may be concerned, action is the mean whereby alone they are removable. This removal is demanded—absolutely demanded by that law of philosophy and of nature, whereby effects are perpetuated, so long as all their causes continue. Here again, electricity, with the double and opposite powers of its two poles, seems adapted to good use in either excess or default of action, if it can be duly manipulated as a therapeutic agent. And when we contemplate the fact, that the lightning of heaven, with its wild and tremendous power, has been arrested by man and made a plaything for babes, it does not seem a hopeless purpose to look for the construction of apparatus whereby electricity may be rendered extensively applicable to therapeutic purposes. Knowing well the fact of the differing powers of the two poles, the positive and negative of electricity and of galvanism, and the north and south of the magnet, we feel it a duty to call the attention of the profession, whose great end is the best service of humanity, to any approximation toward success in obtaining the means of application.

We hope to embrace an early opportunity of again calling the attention of the profession to this subject.
PART II.—REVIEWS AND EXTRACTS.

Notice of Dr. G. G. Sigmond’s Lectures on Stramonium and Digitalis; as published in the London Lancet, and subsequently in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences.

We meet with few things in foreign or domestic journals, which possess an equal proportion of practical value with the lectures of Dr. Sigmond on materia medica, which are in a course of publication in the London Lancet. We notice the present subjects from the last (August) number of the American Journal, as they are of great and peculiar therapeutical interest.

On the use of Stramonium in Neuralgia. Dr. Sigmond found that in some of those neuralgic affections which occasionally baffled every expectation, and by which he was driven from one remedy to another, stramonium sometimes answered the desired end. He states that Dr. Begbie considered the narcotic properties of this plant as decidedly superior, in some cases, to that of other medicines of that class, and he details instances in illustration of its sedative effects. Dr. B. had perceived in no instance, any bad effect, except once an unpleasant nervous sensation in the throat. Dr. Elliotson, of St. Thomas Hospital, had treated a neuralgic affection of very severe character, by giving a grain of extract of stramonium an hour before the accession of the paroxysm, which was intermittent. On the third day the pain was mitigated and the dose increased one half. The case was well in ten or twelve days. In another case, it was used in combination with mercury, and on the production of ptyalism, the cure was effected. Dr. Sigmond speaks of the consciousness, of not having yet precisely ascertained all the points connected with neuralgia. We do not recollect to have seen Dr. S.’s pathology of neuralgia any where detailed; but from the expression just mentioned, we are inclined to the opinion that the difficulties to which he alludes are in his pathiology. He is probably with the great current on this subject, in considering neuralgic affections, or rather, the spinal irritations from which they arise, primary diseases; than which there has probably not been a more troublesome error in pathology since the day of Broussais’ glory, whereof we speak, although much of his error yet floats on the superficies of the profession, as of a thing which was. And, we would ask, must this error too, like his, have its vain and injurious course around the world, and be taught, and used, and be fashionable; inundating the medical mind by its universality, and obscuring truth by its frothy ebullitions for ten or fifteen years, before physicians can subject
themselves to the government of the wholesome little law of nature which allows no effect without competent causation? We do trust that men will consider—will reason. We do look to those who had minds incapable of bowing to the injurious dogmas and sophistries of Broussais, here too, to preserve their intellectual dignity, and refuse to worship at the shrine of this error: for we are much inclined to think that Broussaisism is its legitimate parent. And under this impression, we would willingly, if we can do no better, make parties, that some at least may be saved from superficial reasoning, and its common consequence injurious error—then we shall hope that a redeeming spirit will soon again pervade the world and wrest humanity from so afflicting a thraldom.

We would not be so exclusive as to assert that primary irritation of the spinal column cannot possibly occur; no more than we did that primary gastritis and interitis could not. These we well knew could and did occur; but when they did, we knew them well by their characters as such, and not by the consequences in the progress of a fever toward, and its termination in disorganization and death. But of the occurrence of that (primary spinal irritation) we are not so sure; for we have not yet found the first case, except from peculiar mechanical causes. And when spinal irritation is in question, we must know its existence by its own symptoms, and not attribute to its supposed existence, effects, or morbid phenomena, which may arise from other causes, and in its stead. We cannot make effects neuralgic, unless they are so. No error can be more fatal to correct therapeutics, than to suppose, and be guided by that supposition, that a cause of disease is of a kind, or in a place where it is not. From the moment this is done, error begins; and to say the least of that error, time is lost, and the self-preserving resources of the system become at once the only rational hope; for the practitioner is undertaking to guide his barque over the (would we could say pathless) deep, without the helm of true reason. In this case, it is true that, many times, the spinal irritation itself may be corrected to a greater or less extent, or even, in some cases, permanently removed, with all its own consequences. But it is not unlike sweeping a house whilst the trash continues to be supplied; or, in the latter case, stopping it from passing into one room, whilst it flows freely and injuriously into another. Here metastasis is effected, or the powers of nature alone, eradicate the evil causation. We would not pretend to say that cases of neuralgic affections do not occur "which occasionally baffle every expectation, and by which we are driven from one remedy to another." But we are confident of our justification in saying that much more radicalism is needed in the profession—especially in pathological investigations, and more particularly still, in the etiological department of this part
of medical science. No diagnosis—no prescription can be a truly scientific one, which is not founded on thorough research into the real origin of the morbid phenomena presented: for even if it be the case, that the first causes have been fugitive—only leaving their effects behind them, or have been removed by nature or art, it is necessary that we should know it—that we should know that we have only to attend to the correction of the remaining effects; and not be induced to direct indications to causes which no longer exist and operate. Had Dr. S. taken a thorough view of the origin of his neuralgic affections, doubtless he would, in most of them, have found adequate cause of the obstinacy; and very possibly have discovered that, without resorting to so dangerous a drug for internal administration as the ext. stramon., he might have relieved or cured most of those cases by means comparatively trivial.

Of smoking stramonium, as a remedy for asthma, Dr. Sigmond states that the first legitimate introduction of datura stramonium, as a remedy for asthma and other pulmonary affections, was by Dr. Sims, who strongly recommended smoking the herb. And that in 1802, Gen. Gent, on his return from India, gave to that learned physician and accomplished botanist, a remedy which was used in the east as a specific for relieving paroxysms of asthma; the preparation of which was as follows: The roots of the wild purple-flowered thorn-apple—(the datura ferox,) were cut into slips as soon as they were gathered, and exposed to the dry air, in the shade, until all moisture had completely evaporated. They were then beaten into fibres, very much resembling in appearance dry hemp. This substance was, when used, placed in the bulb of a pipe, either with or without tobacco, according to the previous custom of the patient; and then inhaled, after being kindled. This plan had received the sanction of the highest medical authorities in India; and Dr. Anderson, then physician general at Madras, not only recommended it, but is said to have had recourse to it himself. Dr. Sims administered it to the daughter of an eminent physician who labored under phthisis pulmonalis, combined with asthma, as it appeared to him, from the frequency of the paroxysms of difficult breathing not usual, at least in so early a stage of pure phthisis. With the view of alleviating these distressing paroxysms, he recommended a trial of the datura, as given to him by Gen. Gent. The relief obtained far exceeded his expectation, and although the lady gradually sank under the incurable phthisis, yet she continued to experience, throughout its progress, even to the last, the greatest comfort from its use. He then recommended it to Dr. Toulmin of Hackney, who had for several years suffered frequent paroxysms of asthma. He was much benefitted by its use, and having exhausted all the stock given him by Dr. Sims, he determined to supply its place with the
datura stramonium, which he found equally serviceable. During the three first months, to April, 1811, Dr. Bree saw eighty-two patients who had smoked stramonium. Those of them who had derived no permanent good effect, amounted to fifty-eight out of that number—the remaining twenty-four had been all of them more or less injured, and some of them destroyed by the practice. Of fifty-eight, eleven certainly were not in a state to try the remedy. Whether the others derived even temporary benefit or not, we are not informed. Dr. Bree's observations went to shew many ill consequences from its use, such as, epilepsy, a rapid supervision of a variety of distressing symptoms, &c. But these results occurred in highly debilitated constitutions, and in cases of organic changes in important viscera, and where disease would under any circumstances, have rapidly developed itself. Gen. Gent, who introduced the remedy from India, subsequently fell a victim to its deleterious powers. He was found by Sir George Gibbs, a physician of high character and talent, who was called to him at Bath, comatose, appeared stunned, his recollection impaired, his head reclining on a sofa, pulse scarcely perceptible—even the carotid arteries had little or no pulsation. On inquiry, it appeared that the gentleman had smoked stramonium the previous evening, in consequence of his having been afflicted with shortness of breath. After various treatment, under which he seemed to mend a little in several respects, he expired suddenly on the fourth day, whilst sleeping, or immediately after waking. He was of full habit, and had, without any consultation with his medical adviser, smoked largely of stramonium three or four times.

Dr. S. concludes the practice with this article thus:—In pure spasmodic asthma, during the paroxysm, stramonium may be smoked, when there is not the slightest tendency to apoplexy, epilepsy or paralysis. When dyspnoea is present, or constant difficulty of breathing, it is not to be recommended, nor when the embarrassment is to be attributed to hydrothorax or to diseased abdominal viscera. It is only to be pursued for a very short time, and the intervals between inspiration should be long. When the slightest giddiness comes on, it must be immediately given up. The saliva should be swallowed. The patient should if possible, avoid sleeping immediately after its use, and in preference, should take moderate exercise.

Treatment when poisonous effects supervene during the use of Stramonium. Dr. Sigmond recommends the discontinuance of its use when, during the smoking of stramonium, incoherent talking, flushed face, and alternation of vision supervene; nor should it be persevered in, if relief be not very speedily obtained. The fumes of the more decided narcotic, opium, inspired only once or twice, has as much influence as a grain of that drug. Should stupor, delirium tremor, convulsions and coma occur, it
will be found that a humiliation of cold water on the head, or sprinkling it well with water, slightly acidulated, will be the best step to be taken for instantaneous relief; and then, the internal administration of different stimuli. One of the most striking means of restoring the patient under such circumstances, if the apparatus be at hand, is the injection of a lavament containing camphor; for no sooner is it introduced than it is found in the pulmonary transpiration, which you will immediately recognise by the odour of the expired air. The quantity used must be very small, for the stimulus to the system is very great. Ten grains of camphor is as much as should be administered in this way—large quantities being intoxicating and injurious.

Mode of action of Digitalis. Dr. Sigmond is of the opinion that this article decreases the irritability of the constitution, diminishes the frequency of the action of the heart; and that, hence the circulation through the system becomes so slow as to allow the kidneys much more time to take from the blood the watery portion which they secrete; for, says he, we have no reason to believe that these organs are stimulated to any increased action by the herb. Instead of diminishing action in one instance and increasing it in another, Dr. S. attributes the apparently newly-acquired energy of the kidneys, not to any new energy imparted to them, but to their having a longer period allowed them to act on the fluid which is detained in the renal vessels. Dr. S. thus accounts for the apparently powerful stimulant effect of this medicine on the system in some instances. When, says he, from a diseased state of the kidneys, the due separation of the fluid from the blood does not occur, or when, from pulmonary disease, the due transpiration does not take place, for the circulation is slowly carried on at first; but if no elimination from the blood take place, the whole frame is thrown into disorder and a febrile state produced. Dr. S. finds that in the form of powder, it is liable to produce considerable irritation of the stomach, and influences the brain so as to bring on a state resembling the approach of intoxication. Upon the generative system its power is strongly marked, bringing on seminal secretion in the male, and in the female, symptoms similar to those experienced by females, premonitory of the approach of particular periods. All these phenomena however, he attributes to the retardation of the blood in the capillary system. Dr. Mossman in the year 1806, was the first who drew the conclusion, from its influence on the minute arteries, and the diminution of vascular action, that it was strictly a sedative; and he went so far as to state that he could obviate pneumonic inflammation with as much certainty by it, as he could arrest an intermittent fever by means of the bark of cinchona.

Of the use of Digitalis in Dropsy. Dr. Sigmond asserts that there is no remedy to which, from its effects upon the urinary
excretion, the name of diuretic is given, which more certainly, speedily and effectually evacuates the hydric fluid than this herb. He proceeds:—When it is thought right to employ it, be on the guard. Never continue it too long; and always be wary in attempting to increase the dose. It is not a remedy to be trifled with. It produces the most appalling effects where it has been injudiciously prescribed, and has been the fertile source of fatal sorrow to those who have indiscriminately recommended it, and to those who have followed bad advice. With regard to its use in dropsical effusions there is considered by him, as well as by Dr. Lombard, a state of election which is necessary for its safety and success. Where, says Dr. S., there is great general strength and vigour, which has been unimpaired by the ravages of disease, when the muscular fibre is tense, the skin hard and dry, if the individual be inclined to corpulence, if the countenance be at all indicative of determination to the head, or veinous relaxation, or if the habit of the bowels be slow, and difficult to be called into action, it will generally be found to be only useless, but occasionally injurious. Dr. Withering first drew the distinction of the cases of hydric effusion in which digitalis would be found unsuccessful, and Dr. S. believes the truth of this distinction is confirmed by the great majority of medical men who have been in the habit of employing it.

On the other hand, the experience of the most acute and intelligent practitioners has satisfactorily demonstrated that there are states in which it is pre-eminently efficacious. These are, weak, delicate, irritable constitutions, where there may be present much laxity of fibre, a thin, soft, smooth pale skin, which, in the anasarcous limb seems to be transparent; where, upon pressure on the skin, there appears to be no elasticity whatever, but the impression sinks deeply, and there is no evident power of resistance, where the emaciation of the other parts of the body is very striking, when the countenance is very pale, when there is feeble or intermitting pulse, when the constitution has been much broken down, more particularly if it were originally strong, sound and robust, where any indulgence in spirituous liquors, bad habits of life, the action of mercury, or any debilitating cause has produced the mischief; in such cases digitalis will be indicated in preference to most diuretics.* It should be remembered, however, that it is merely the evacuation of the hydric fluid which is effected, and that this is not more than one step in the cure of the disease, more particularly if that disease be connected with a disordered state of the viscera, or if it be attended with paralysis. It will, however, do that, which is sometimes of as much importance as any object we can have in view; it will

*This is corroborated by Dr. Hooker's use of this article in delirium tremens.
alleviate the distressing symptoms, and gain time, during which the system may be enabled to rally and then sustain the impres-
sion of well directed, energetic remedies.

The disregard of the distinction of the different states in which it is deleterious or beneficial, has given rise to many contradic-
tory statements of its diuretic effects. By attention to these, which are of vital importance, it is then judicious use cannot in
the opinion of Dr. Sigmund, fail to afford relief when it is ju-
diciously employed.

**Cases in which Digitalis may, or may not be employed.** In
hydrothorax from any obstacle to circulation, as hyperther-
my of the heart, when it is the termination of long protracted disease
of the thorax, if it be not accompanied by disordered condition
of the valves of the heart, Digitalis may be employed.

In ascites and in anasarca, dependent on disordered states of
the exhalent vessels, which throw out a larger quantity of fluid
than can be absorbed, good effect is produced by diminishing
the impulse with which the blood is directed to the capillaries;
and that fluid is presented to the kidneys for a greater length of
time, whereby the kidneys are enabled to secrete much more
than they could otherwise. It may be the case, that Dr. Sig-
mund has settled the digitalis practice thus, more from his theo-
ry of its *modus operandi*, than from actual observation in parti-
cular cases. In the use of an article of so much power—
dangerous power, as digitalis—the practitioner should look to
this with great care.

In ovarian dropsy, digitalis is seldom found to succeed.

In hydrocephalus in infancy, it is highly noxious. Many
practitioners prefer lowering the action of the system, when ne-
cessary, before the use of digitalis, by ample depletion. Dr. S.
thinks *other diuretics* will be more serviceable; and urges it as
a matter of deep importance, to avoid, if possible, the junction
of these two means of cure. It is true, he says, that after vene-
section, digitalis is more diuretic; but he adds, that the most fatal
effects have occurred from giving the herb after blood-letting
had been practised. This point is strongly urged, if our memo-
ry serve us, by Dr. Lombard, of Geneva, for whose observa-
tions on this subject, see a former number of this Journal. In
the following injunction, Drs. Sigmund, Bailden and Lombard
agree:—During the action of digitalis for the cure of dropsy, the
recumbent position is preferable, for it is observed, on experi-
ment, that it decreases the action of the heart most, when the
individual is lying down. Dr. Bailden, who repeated the expe-
riment several times on himself, found that after digitalis had
taken its effect, as long as he stood erect, his pulse, which was
more than one hundred, was not diminished in frequency; when
he sat down, it was reduced to seventy-five; but when he lay
upon his back, it became as low even as forty. He observed
the same effects in all to whom he saw cause to administer it.
Nausea, languor, uneasiness, or general irritability, commonly arises under the use of digitalis, and seem to so accompany or contribute to its good effects, that it is deemed improper, and impairing to its diuretic properties, to counteract these by the combination of diuretics, &c.

Deleterious effects of Digitalis. These, Dr. Sigmond informs us are, first, primary; and are evidences of disturbance of the alimentary canal, they are nausea, vomiting, purging, excessive depression of spirits, fainting. When the poisonous effects are produced after the symptoms of disturbance of the alimentary canal, these cause a vertigo, drowsiness, and frequent faintings—the skin becomes bedewed with a cold sweat, tongue and lips swell, profuse salivation occurs—sometimes the action of the kidneys is totally suspended. At others, it is increased, with frequent desire to expel the urine; or at others, inability to retain it is felt. The pulse intermits and is slow, and delirium, hicough. cold sweats, confused vision; sometimes convulsions, and frequent faintings follow, till death closes the scene.

There is a point, says Dr. S., at which we can no longer administer digitalis. This has been ascribed to its accumulation in the stomach; but Dr. S. thinks it is rather dependent upon the very low tone to which the vascular and muscular systems have been lowered; for neither by vomiting, nor purging has digitalis been thrown off. The same results occur after the endermic use of this article. It is generally at about the eighth dose, says Dr. S., that the baneful influence of this herb is visible; and this often happens, whether the dose has been large or small—whether diminished or increased; whether it has been given twice or thrice in the course of the day. This fact seems to urge the great necessity of caution in its use. Dr. Sigmond, Halloran, Hamilton and others, consider digitalis as a narcotic; first stimulating, and afterwards, as a sedative.

Use of Digitalis is Phthisis.—Dr. Sigmond ranks digitalis as a curative agent in this disease, only in the early stages; but says it may, in its latter moments be important as a palliative. The high character in the treatment of phthisis, which this article has obtained, has arisen out of its use in the early stages, before the breaking down of tubercles in the lungs; for, says Dr. S., according to observation of all the cases found in our periodical literature, the opinions of the most enlightened men of our profession, and the quantity of experience his own practice has afforded, he is convinced of this fact—a fact which every honest man is ready to endorse, that when actual disorganization has occurred, no remedy that we have as yet discovered, will lead to the eradication of the disease. This fact attaches peculiar importance to a familiarity with the premonitory symptoms of tubercular phthisis, as then, we may ward off the threatening danger. The golden maxim, "ventienti occurrere morbo," Dr. S.
Lectures on Stramonium and Digitalis.

considers is no where so rigidly to be enforced, as when suspi-
cion is excited that the system is predisposed to this melancholy
disease; not only because it is the only time for the hope of vic-
tory over it, but because it selects the most interesting subjects
for its victims; and at a period when our sympathy is most ex-
cited in their favor. "There are some," says Dr. S. who "lay the
flattering unction to their souls," that they have cured the true
genuine pulmonic phthisis: where tubercles have been fully de-
veloped, their structure broken down, and they have poured forth
purulent discharge." He assures us, such have been deceived.—
To the truth of this we can testify, and have only been brought
to a correct diagnosis by the recovery of our patients under the
use of prussic acid and of digitalis; for the fact of recovery
is sufficient to correct the error of diagnosis with any prac-
titioner who will contemplate the functions of the lungs, in
health, and their real condition in true, genuine tubercular
phthisis. Here, Dr. Sigmond, lays down the proper grounds
for diagnosis, between those cases so calculated to deceive
the practitioner, and genuine phthisis in its early stage:—There
are instances, says he, nor are they very uncommon, where
even fever, attended with copious expectoration of viscid mus-
cus, and we will add genuine pus, has worn the fatal ap-
pearance, and when it has been stated that the individual is in a
rapid consumption—one of those false terms which mislead.—
Hectic fever has been present, attended with morning and even-
ing exacerbations, night sweats and wheezing cough. Chlorisis
has likewise borne a somewhat similar appearance; there may be
a harassing cough, pain in the side or chest, rigors, succeeded
by great heat, and not infrequently, night sweats. These states
have yielded to appropriate treatment, whilst the medical
man has believed they were consumptive cases.

But in the coming on of consumption, Dr. S. says, there is
one great, and never-to-be mistaken symptom, the state of the
pulse, which too often escapes observation; but reveals more
than does the cough, the loss of strength, the emaciation of the
body. This he looks on as the pathognomic symptom which is
peculiar to pulmonary affections. He is surprised that it is so
often unheeded, and that many of the best writers merely men-
tion its quickness; and that writers who may in future be rank-
ed among the classic medical authorities, devote so little atten-
tion to a diagnostic of so much value. One, that to his mind is
of not less importance than the signs afforded by auscultation or
by percussion. That there are many shades of distinction in
pulsation which can be perceived by but few, Dr. S. readily ad-
mits, but he thinks that the principal obstacle we have to en-

* But this has been from a common phlegmon, terminating in abscess
and not from tubercles.
counter is the conveying to others the sensations excited in our
own minds.

The indication of consumptive tendency, by the pulse, is much
more easily recognized than it is explained to another; a remark
which he has occasionally heard from other experienced physi-
cians. He thinks that the peculiar rapidity of the circulation
exhibited in the pulse, indicates an extraordinary state of irrita-
bility of the living fibre—not that which is attendant upon fever,
having neither the strength, nor the hardness of the inflammato-
ry; nor the weakness nor smallness which belongs to low fever;
in both of which cases, there may be increased celerity of the
pulse. There is tension, but it is not the whipcord feel of inflam-
mation—there is a vibration, but it is essentially distinct from
that which betokens disease of the heart; it is extraordinarily
dependant upon mental emotion, and its rapidity is excited by
moral causes in a most surprising and unaccountable manner.

Here is plainly set forth Dr. Sigmund's early diagnosis by the
pulse; experience of tact must make up the deficiencies of his
verbal description. There is no state of incipient consumption,
says Dr. S., in which digitalis, properly administered, is of such
infinite importance as when this disease first arrests our suspi-
cion, as being likely to occur in the young female, in whom, at
the age of puberty, nature exerts herself with unerring precision,
for the development of that system upon which the increase of
our species depends. These efforts of nature are almost invari-
ably successful, and the greater number of females are, after a
short interval, prepared to fulfill the destiny for which, as a sex,
they were ordained. It is at this moment, however fair may be
the external form, that that form is most fragile. Nothing can
be more exquisite in nature's works, than that which she has
taught us most to admire and esteem—a woman, in the full
possession of her bodily attraction and her mental charms.*

Thus indeed is the young female presented to us in the plen-
tude of her peculiar charms, marked by the cessation of de
velopments in some parts of their continuance in others; but these
again, in turn, having accomplished the wise and beautiful out-
line enstamped on the sex by creative wisdom, must cease. But
a surplusage, wisely supplied for the development and susten-
ance of the offspring, still arises, and woman must menstruate
for about thirty years of her life, when this is not vicariously
answered; or change, as Cuvier says, from that perfection
which renders her at once, a being the most enchanting, to a

* Here Dr. S. refers to his revered preceptor Dr. Gregory, who in his
"Conspicuous Medicine Theoretical" he says, has given, in classic language,
which Cicero or Tacitus would have admired, probably one of the most
enchanting delineations that ever was drawn, of the charm of female perfec-
tions. We think it fully equalled by one of pretty similar import by Cuvier.
lothsome, patrid mass, and undergoing chemical changes, become assimilated with the dust of the earth. It is indeed a law of her nature, that she must menstruate from puberty to forty-five or fifty, unless breeling or lactating; or suffer the ravages of most distressing or destructive diseases; and the reason of her peculiar liability to certain diseases, is that this superfluous, wisely provided in the proportions of her economy for the perpetuation of the species becomes, when disposed of otherwise in the system, an extraneous, exciting and injurious non-natural—a proper cause of morbid changes and phenomena. She is, thus in her perfections, in the full exuberance of susceptibilities—ready for the strong excitements of suitable means. Every thing, as Dr. S. states, proves that her circulation is in a state of easy accelleration. In an instant the heart quickens with an unnatural throb, the cheek is suffused with the crimson blush of modesty, the whole face flushed, the mind, like the body, in an electric state, every chord is tremblingly alive to the touch—its tension irresistibly strong; every vibration is conveyed along the whole frame, the pulse quickly shews the mental emotion; the eyes radiate the light of love, or sparkle with the illumination of genius, or beam with the fondest and truest affection—

*Dr. S. has indeed adopted the ideas, and almost the identical words of Cuvier, in this description.

The following are Cuvier's words:

"Examinons, par exemple, le corps d'une femme dans l'état de jeunesse et de santé: ces formes arrondies et voluptueuses, cette souplesse gracieuse de mouvement, cette douce chaleur, ces joues teintes des roses de la volupté, ces yeux brillants de l'éclat de l'amour ou de feu du génie; cet physionomie égayée par les saillies de l'esprit, ou animée par le feu des passions; tout semble se réunir pour en faire un être enchanteur. Un instant suffit pour détruire ces prestige: souvent sans aucune cause apparente le mouvement et le sentiment viennent à cesse; le corps perd sa chaleur; les muscles s'affaissent et laissent paraître les saillies anguleuses des os; les yeux deviennent ternes, les joues et les lèvres livides. Ce n'est là que les préludes de changemens plus horribles: les chairs passent au bleu, au vert, au noir; elles attirent l'humidité; et pendant qu'une portion s'évapore en émanations infectes, une autre s'éconce en une sain putride, qui ne tarde pas à se dissiper aussi: en un mot, au bout d'un petit nombre de jours, il ne reste plus que quelques principes terrestres ou salins; les autres déclins se sont desperés dans les airs et dans les eaux pour entrer dans de nouvelles combinaisons."—Leçons d'Anatomie Comparée, de G. Cuvier. Tom. 1. re. p. 2.

The following is a liberal translation of the above paragraph:

"Let us examine, for example, the person of a female in the state of youth and health, that form round and delightful, that graceful suppleness of movement, that genial warmth, those cheeks tinted with the roses of pleasure, those brilliant eyes sparkling with love or the fire of genius, that expression enlivened by sallies of wit, or animated by the fire of the passions; all seem to unite to render her an enchanting being. An instant suffices to destroy the fond illusion: often, without apparent cause, motion and feeling cease; the body loses its genial warmth, the muscles shrink, leaving the bones to appear in angular projections; the eyes lose their lustre, the cheeks and
there is gentle warmth, and all that can betoken the highest health, gives hope and expectation of joy and life. There is now a great determination to the thorax, but more particularly, externally, to the glands which are destined for the future secretion of nutrition for the offspring; they are fully charged with blood from which the milky fluid is to be secreted.* Exposure to cold is at once, says Dr. S., sufficient to determine the blood to the internal membranes—hence are young women peculiarly subject, from dress and other exposure, to inflammation of the thoracic contents; but these inflammations yield to external counter-irritants, such as blisters, more easily than they do in men. These frequent light colds, call into action any predisposition to disease of the lungs which may exist; and where, at first, the membranes only were diseased, the lungs become solid, ulcerated, or changed in their structure.

There is so much good sense, and so close and legitimate a connexion of cause and effect, and all so true, in the following observations of Dr. Sigmund, leading to the use of digitalis in these cases, that we feel bound to extract his own words, which perhaps, we had better commenced earlier.

Every thing tends, at this eventful moment of life, to increase the circulation; yet there seems a wonderful adaptation of means to carry it on without endangering the functions of the various organs; congestions do not occur, but the tendency is to fill every minute capillary vessel, which again quickly unloosens itself. It is not only the arterial system that is thus replete, but the venous system partakes of the fulness: you observe the white coat of the eye sometimes exhibit a most beautiful hue, there is an exquisite tint of blue which gives to the pearly membrane a shade that has something of heaven in it, something so supernatural, that Byron's line, "that eye was in itself a soul," appears not only poetic but descriptive; this depends upon the minutest venous channels of this coat being charged with the blue-colored blood which circulates in the venous system. At no other period of life is this visible. Sometimes the heart labors with the fluid that is transmitted through it, the slightest exertion produces palpitation, and you will find young females constantly liable to this state, which has been mistaken for organic disease. Indeed, I myself have known instances where the adroit stethoscopist has pronounced an affection of the heart where there was only this state peculiar to the age and sex. You

lips become livid. These are but the prelude to changes more horrible.—The flesh passes to blue, green, black. It attracts humidity; and whilst one portion exhales in infectious emanations, another runs into putrid sallow which soon also is dissipated. Finally, after a few days, there remains nothing but a few earthy and saline principles; the other elements are dissipated in the air and water, to enter into new combinations."

* In this state of things, who is so blind as not to see at first glance, the danger of that compression of these organs, which modern fashionable dressing is calculated to afford—who does not see that blood determined to these parts for their proper development must, if repelled by compression, work injurious effects in other parts already developed to the fullness of their purposes; and peculiarly the lungs.
will hear it often remarked, that females have lived for years after it has been formally announced that there is organic alteration of this great centre of life. In such cases small quantities of the tincture of digitalis only occasionally exhibited, beginning with five drops, will act most beneficially, and, if combined with an equal quantity of tincture of opium, will, in those high states of nervous excitement to which young ladies are sometimes subject, prove much more useful than the aromatic spirits of ammonia, the camphor, the harisbicorn, which momentarily stimulate. This is a useful combination on very particular and urgent occasions, but it is by no means to be frequently had recourse to; it is only when necessity demands it that digitalis is to be used. In consequence of the acccel ration through the lungs, the minutest vessel becomes full of blood; each capillary is surcharged; not only the pulmonary vessels are in this state, but the investing pleura is absolutely injected with fluid; still there is not inflammation unless some exciting cause occurs; if cold constricts the extreme ends of the vessels, this takes place, and the thoughtless imprudence of youth too often exposes the delicate system to the dangers that are consequent upon it. A cold, variable climate should at this time be avoided, and the diet must not be too stimulating; every thing that can carry off the accumulated irritability of the system must be administered. It is to be remembered, that in the majority of cases phthisis does not occur, as many writers (very judicious on other points) have stated, when puberty arrives, and the system is to be placed in its new state, but it is after that time, for nature is generally successful in the accomplishment of the change, however much it may be retarded, and if she be not, the disease that is produced is not wasting of the lungs, but of the body generally. In the state to which I have drawn your attention, there has been demanded another channel to carry off the nutrition in which some precocious individuals is prepared at a very early period, and all their functions are carried on with a vigor which is too great for their feeble habits. Should the proper circumstances not arise, and consumption not occur, various other morbid conditions quickly present themselves.

The uterine system first betrays the constitutional disturbance, by headache, pain in the loins and back, heat of skin, quick hard pulse, sometimes great tenderness of the abdomen, which would almost indicate the necessity of abstraction of blood, but for which the tincture of digitalis, combined with opium or with tincture of iron, according to circumstances, will be most efficacious. Medical interference, in all these cases, must be most carefully limited, for upon judgement must depend the future happiness of some of the most interesting subjects of our skill. How often do we see disorders of that period yield spontaneously. In some cases you will find young females at this eventful period of their existence, complain of the most severe suffering in the very lower region of the back; this is mistaken, probably, for disease of the spine; the unfortunate victim is sometimes condemned for months to a recumbent posture; is tortured in every way that honest but mistaken zeal and ingenuity can suggest; and, to use the favorite expression, "every thing has been tried," when probably, to the astonishment of the uninitiated, some emotion of the mind kindles a new train of thought; she awakes, as from a slumber and from a dream of harassment, and in the figurative but descriptive language of the east, "She takes up her bed and walks." As the young lady has probably had the advice of "all the first men in London," who, knowing the real state and cause, have not been able to effect a cure, but, most probably, have told, in as delicate a manner as possible, the truth, she has had, as her last doctor, some shrewd, bold man, well acquainted with the world, who has, whilst his pockets have been lined with fees, led on her friends, by exciting their hopes, and making their credulity subservient to his views. The case is related as a wonder, and the natural result proclaimed to be a great cure performed by a marvellous learned man. It
is the frequent result of our present state of society, that many females must
be disappointed, and incapable of fulfilling the general destiny, and that to
some it must be pregnant with mischief; it is for you, as philosophers and
consolers of the human race, to obviate, as far as you can, the unavoidable sorrow that may grow out of it to individuals. We cannot, from any un-
fortunate examples, conclude that our moral system is bad; I believe it to
be the best for our social condition; for "when the women are chaste the
men will be brave."

I would have you, whenever the care of families is committed to you, re-
gard each member of it as your personal friend, and though you may be lia-
ble to the caprices of individuals, you will eventually gain esteem and regard.
I think you should look with parental solicitude to your youthful patients at
the time of which I have spoken; remember there is a general susceptibility
to extraordinary vascular action, but not to inflammation; there is an un-
wonted but not altogether unnatural condition of the blood-vessels, which
is necessary for the performance of peculiar functions. You may arrest un-
due action by digitalis, administered occasionally in the form of tincture, but
it is not to be persevered in, and long intervals are to be allowed to pass be-
tween each period of prescribing it. When the duration of what was sup-
posed to be a slight cold is longer than ordinary, when the cough appears to
be aggravated on going to bed, when the pulse is at different times in the
day more than usual quick, when a slight difficulty of breathing is percepti-
ble in a horizontal position, when the heart beats violently on going up or
down stairs, and we observe the individual to be of a delicate habit, and un-
der twenty years of age, we must watch with great tenderness and anxiety,
lost symptoms of a more aggravated character supervene, nor is it then too
early to give from ten to fifteen drops of the tincture of digitalis, three times
a day for three successive days, and then to wait, or gradually to diminish
the dose; if there be chlorotic symptoms in the female, for they not unfre-
quently are developed at the same time, the tincture of the nitraria of iron,
now called tinctura ferri sesqui chloridi, may be administered, or the mistura
ferri composita; these preparations will have their efficacy much improved
by the digitalis, and their doses should be smaller in proportion. Indeed,
the tincture of iron is more serviceable in small doses largely diluted in water,
than in large doses in a small quantity of fluid; this rule holds good in many
of the salts, which have their powers very much increased by their being
held in solution in much larger quantities of fluid than in this country we
are in the habit of prescribing.

Digitalis should often be discontinued, sometimes at once, at others by
degrees, and then again had recourse to; but even the very gradual increase
of the dose is most cautiously to be watched; if giddiness, pain in the head,
throbbing at the forehead, or in the orbits; if there be unwonted vision,
such as oscur specta, a cloud interposing between objects usually clear; if
small spots appear to be waving in the air, if nausea be present, it must
immediately be abandoned, and may again be tried; but if your patient
complains "of a faintness or sickness at the stomach as if their life was go-
ing from them," an expression which, even at the time of Dr. Maclean, was
observed to be the most striking effect, when an individual is under its full
influence, and almost all complain of it nearly in the same way, you must
give up the remedy. On some individuals it acts as a soporific; it disturbs
the intellectual faculties, and scarcely any person whilst under its influence,
is capable of going through the ordinary routine of occupation. Some sto-
machs are very much alive to it, and twenty drops will produce nausea, a
larger quantity will cause an inclination to syncope, and this is sometimes
one of its most distressing effects, the swooning continuing long, and being
often repeated, the languor too is very overpowering, whilst cold clammy
sweats burst forth.
The urinary secretion often exhibits some very striking changes under the administration of digitalis. When it has been very high colored, has had a thick deposit, and has been scanty in quantity, it has obtained a more natural colour and consistency, and has been increased in quantity. Some men, bolder than others, have continued its use, even when vomiting has taken place, and they think that the viscid mucus that has been thrown up, has relieved the chest, but surely under such an impression the milder emet- ics should be preferred. The effect upon the appetite in the intervals of nau- sea is sometimes very remarkable; the desire and craving for food, when there was previously distaste, are very striking.

The circumstance to which your attention is more particularly to be di- rected, is the agency of the remedy upon the pulse. You will most generally find two results, either a marked reduction in its frequency, or, on the other hand, an extreme irregularity. Instead of a quick, irritable pulse, betoken- ing the state of excitement of the vascular system, there will speedily be produced a slow, steady, uniform pulsation, occasionally it will seem to be fuller than before, but the slightest bodily movement will counteract its influ- ence, and, in most instances, very little exercise will accelerate it. If it fall below the standard of fifty beats in the minute, you will most generally find that the head and the stomach exhibit some signs of distress, but this is much more observable in phthisis than in dropsy, in which latter disease the exi- tability of the whole system is very much less. If irregularity of pulse be the sequela, it is marked by a few pulsations being performed with exceeding rapidity, and then a return to the previous condition and rhythm; but, occa- sionally, a complete stroke is intermitted. In asthmatic affections, in dysp- nea, it is very serviceable, whether they be dependant upon chronic or active affections of the lungs; but it will not control or cure the disease effec- tually, and, in most states of disease in those organs, it will alleviate the most formidable symptoms, and aid in prolonging life, and in rendering the last hours of life more endurable.

Use of Digitalis in the affections of the Vascular System, which usher in and accompany Phthisis. Dr. Sigmund considers digitalis highly useful in these affections, and, indeed, its influence upon the periodical evacuation, renders it a most valuable emmenagogue when properly employed, namely, in those states which are marked by acceleration of the pulse, and a morbid tension of the vascular system. It is observed, that most of the young females who go out to India, although they have been remarkably healthy with respect to the periodic evacuation, rarely, if ever, perform that function more than once during the whole of the voyage, however long it may be protracted; and on their arrival they generally have to encounter a train of morbid sen- sations consequent upon the effort of nature to resume her wonted condition. Most of the symptoms would be considered inflammatory; but it is merely constitutional excitement, the result of the disturbance the system has under- gone, and the energies which the vis medicatrix nature is exerting to re- cover her lost balance. In such a state, digitalis is to be employed. If undue bleeding take place, it only protracts, to a very late period, the re- establishment of the menstruation, and there is a severe struggle, marked by a morbid condition of the membrane lining the uterus; and there is some- times formed a false, or adventitious membrane, which is with great difficulty detached and dislodged, occasioning very considerable pain; besides which, so long as it remains within the womb, it forms a mechanical obstruction, irritating its vessels and its mouth. This membrane is large enough to cover the top of the finger, and corresponds in shape with the fundus uteri.

On the Treatment of Ophthalmia in general. We shall at present endeav- or to establish some therapeutical laws which may find their application in the greater part of these diseases.
The treatment of ophthalmia is that of inflammation in general; being subject to variations according to the seat, the degree, the character of the inflammation, its tendency to a certain termination, and the causes which may give rise to it.

Among the causes there are some which it is necessary to remove before directly attacking the inflammation, and there are others which may be attacked with success only at the decline and sometimes during the convalescence from the ophthalmia.

Among the first, are foreign bodies which have fallen between the eyelids, whether moveable between these and the anterior surface of the globe, or fixed in the external membranes; which should be immediately removed.—It may happen that the eyelashes are turned towards the globe of the eye, and then it is indispensable that they should be either rectified or extracted. When there is only an accidental inversion, as sometimes takes place from rubbing the lids, they should be replaced. But it is necessary that they should be extracted if their deviation is the result of a disease of the border of the eyelids, as is the case in trichiasis.

We may refer to the first of these classes of causes, the too strong or long-continued action of the solar or artificial light; this it is necessary to modify, for one cannot with impunity withdraw the patient entirely from its influence. Also the excessive fatigue of the eyes, to which we may oppose an absolute rest to this organ. Among the second class, we may rank all the internal causes, such as lymphatic constitution, scrofulous affections, ancient rheumatism, syphilitic diseases or others, which should be opposed by specific therapeutic agents, which cannot always be used without inconvenience during the inflammatory period.

Without entering too minutely into detail concerning the symptoms, we shall consider the two most important and prominent anatomical characters—characters which of themselves fix the antiphlogistic treatment, and thus become the source of the division of the inflammations into two principal classes, and furnish the two indications to which we should attach the greatest importance in the treatment of inflammatory affections. These two anatomical characters are—

1st. Local congestion, that is to say, the permanent and two abundant flow of blood into the diseased organ.

2nd. The increase of plasticity of the blood and its tendency to decompose itself during life into its constituent parts, and to produce fibro-albuminous exudations, which become organized into false membranes.

According as the one or the other of these characters predominates in the inflammations, we may divide them in a therapeutic point of view in two classes, characterised by particular forms, and requiring different treatment.

1st. Inflammation with predominance of congestion.

2nd. Inflammation with predominance of the increased plasticity of the blood.

Another group might be formed of those inflammations which exhibit an almost uniform development of these two phenomena.

If we take into consideration these two principal characters, the antiphlogistic may be divided into two groups:

1. Means directed against congestion.

2. Means directed against the increased plasticity of the blood.

Anti-Congestive Means.

Sangnineous congestion consists not only in local plethora, but also in the morbid direction of the blood towards the diseased organ, where it is incessantly attracted by the inflammatory irritation. Hence the necessity of taking from the diseased organ or the general system the superfluous blood, in order to diminish the too violent action of the arterial system caused by
local irritation (depletion,) or of driving back from the organ affected the morbid current (repulsion,) or of directing it more or less actively towards the healthy parts and towards the surface (derivation.)

Repulsion is suited to the least considerable degree of inflammation; to that which resembles rather the simple congestion; but only when it is situated in the external parts of the organ. In most cases of conjunctivitis, repulsion employed in good season puts an end to the disease. Cold water, a means which one can procure so easily, is the best, the most energetic, and the most sure of repulsives, when used in a continuous manner. But there are many inflammations whose nature is averse to cold—such is the catarrhal ophthalmia, for example. In these cases, the astringents of every nature, but principally the astringent mineral solutions, which we may employ lukewarm, or at the ordinary temperature of the atmosphere, fulfil the indications. The less the inflammation is, the more it approaches to the nature of a simple congestion, and the more also is it allowable to increase the strength of the collyrium. In the more considerable degrees of inflammation, we may make use of a simple solution of the acetate of lead, an astringent, the anti-phlogistic powers of which are well known.

Depletion may be immediate or derivative, that is to say, it may be practised near to the diseased organ or at a distance from it. If the former has the advantage of relieving more quickly the inflamed part, by causing the irritation, the pain and the compression to cease rapidly, a relief to which the patients are sufficiently sensible, the second also fulfils the very important indication of giving another direction to the morbid flow of blood.

In order to obtain the united effect of these two depletive methods, it is well to employ them, in severe ophthalmias, either simultaneously or alternately being made to succeed each other at very short intervals. In children, general bleedings are rarely indicated; it is nevertheless possible that we may be forced to have recourse to them. In adults we may often shorten considerably the duration of the ophthalmia, and may decidedly diminish the danger in cases of a great degree of intensity, by causing the local bleeding to be preceded by a general bleeding of from 8 to 16 ounces, to be repeated in 24 hours if the symptoms do not lose their intensity. In some cases it is necessary that the bleeding should be carried to syncope. Arteriotomy, bleeding from the jugular vein, and that from the nasal vein, do not appear to possess any peculiar advantages, and they often require the considerable inconvenience of compression in the neighborhood of the diseased organ, which restrains the venous circulation and increases the inflammation. Bleeding from the arm as simply depletive, and that from the foot as revulsive, have in our practice always proved sufficient. They may be used alternately in order to unite their advantages. The best local bleeding consists in the application of leeches over the mastoid process, to the temple, or in front of the ear. If placed too near the eyelids they often produce, in consequence of the looseness of the cellular tissue of the part, an erysipelatous oedema with great swelling of the lids; and sometimes ecchymoses, which frighten without relieving the patient, and prevent the physician, for a certain time, from examining the state of the eye. The same inconvenience results from applying the leeches upon the internal surface of the eyelids. Here, the limited space permits only a small number to be applied, so that the depletion is less considerable than the inflammation caused by the bites. This last reason, founded upon a long experience, has led us to employ always a larger number of leeches in the case of direct local depletion than when they are used as derivative; indeed, in the latter case, we draw advantage even from the irritation of the skin caused by the leeches, while in the former case this irritation is an entire loss, and adds often, at least temporarily, to the intensity of the inflammation.

Derivative bleedings may be found useful either after the local bleedings, or when a suppression of any habitual evacuation, as of the menses, or an
hemorrhoidal flux or of an epistaxis, furnishes a special indication. It is in this case that the application of ten or fifteen leeches to the anus or the genitals, cupping upon the back, the loins or the lower extremities, may find their application.

The derivative effect produced by bleeding is powerfully aided by certain means of irritation, which attract the blood towards the circumference and thus turn it from the diseased organ. Of this character are the foot-bath, with mustard sinapisms to the extremities, and the application of the emplast, resinos. cantharid. to the back or between the shoulders, for the purpose of producing a temporary rubefaction of the skin. In proportion as these derivative means of a transitory action are useful, and serve to aid the direct effects of depletion and repulsion, by so much, the more energetic agents which give rise to a vesication of the skin, or which keep up for a long time a puriform secretion in the neighborhood of the inflamed organ, appear to us injurious, and rather adapted to add a new irritation than to relieve the primitive inflammation. In the course of our experience we have rarely witnessed any salutary effects result from these violent remedies in the active periods of ocular inflammations. We believe that they possess a marked advantage only in the inflammations of the mucous textures accompanied by an abundant puriform secretion; for example, in the blenorrhagic ophthalmitis. It is still necessary, even in these cases, that the severity of the inflammation should have been modified by the previous employment of bleeding and repellents. But we are far from wishing to depreciate the value of these agents, used when the severity of the disease begins to diminish, or when it is desired to prevent a relapse in a rebellious inflammation. In most cases the application of a blister, or frictions with tartar emetic ointment composed of a drachm of tartarized antimony and two drachms of lard, is sufficient, towards the decline of the inflammation, to produce rapid amelioration and give to the disease a more decided progress towards a happy termination. It is only in a very few cases which are very complicated, chronic and obstinate, that there is any necessity for having recourse to moxa, to issues and setons. Blisters and the tartar emetic ointment have the advantage of exciting an irritation which we can readily arrest without danger, and afterwards reproduce with renewed activity, whilst the more profound irritants, as setons, &c. are with difficulty removed and soon become an habitual, useless and injurious secretion—useless, because, accompanied with a very feeble irritation, it has not the power of displacing an irritation of a morbid and secretive character—useful, because it constitutes an artificial and addition morbid condition, of which the patient may not be able to rid himself without great precaution, and sometimes not without serious consequences.

Purgatives act in various ways, as depletive, derivative or antiplastic agents. We speak of them in this place because they form a kind of introduction to the means which belong to the second class of therapeutic indications relative to inflammatory affections.

Purgatives, by inducing an abundant secretion from the intestinal canal, give rise to the evacuation of a large quantity of serous and fibro-albuminous matter. This kind of evacuation is not less important than sanguine emissions, especially when the ocular inflammation attacks very young subjects in whom the serous and fibro albuminous parts predominate. Purgatives are still very important when a peculiar morbid disposition, as scrofula, in the cause of the predominance of lymph in the constitution of the organic liquids.

If the advantages of depletion by the aid of purgatives are evident, it is not the less true that they do not offer the inconveniences which some have wished to attribute to them. The fear of their causing intestinal irritation is not founded upon experience. Unless some pathological condition of the intestinal surface pre-exist which forbids their use, they are well supported
by individuals of all ages. The increased secretion which they excite is itself the crisis of their first irritating impression upon the mucous membrane, and the surest security that this congestion is not transforming itself into a permanent or inflammatory irritation; thus the irritation is opposed and subdued by its own effects. The second effect of purgatives consists in the transferring the irritation of the mucous membrane of the eye to another very extensive portion of the mucous system. This powerful and favorable reversion is equally useful in the inflammations of all the tissues of the eye.

By removing from the mass of the blood a large quantity of fibro-albuminious matter, purgatives contribute to diminish the plasticity of this fluid, and thus already fulfill in part the second indication.

Finally, they are also useful in these cases, by no means rare, in which the local inflammation is accompanied and often kept up by a gastric irritation. It is especially in practice among the poor that their employment is of great value and of extensive application, for the double reason of the bad quality of their food, which produces in every disease frequent complications of gastric embarrassment; and of the high price of leeches, for which, evacuants from the intestinal canal may often be substituted, chiefly in lymphatic constitutions. There are cases of conjunctivitis of a mild character in which a simple purgative alone fulfills the indication of depletion, and dissipates at once all the morbid phenomena.

The purgatives which we are in the habit of employing are, for adults, the neutral salts, as the sulphates of soda and magnesia. These, beside their purgative effect, appear to have a modifying influence upon the blood.—With children we use manna in a dose of one or two ounces, dissolved in water, or an infusion of senna with coffee, or an electuary of senna with prunes and cream of tartar or the syrup of rhubarb. If we desire a more drastic effect, we add scammony or jalap, in a dose of a scruple for adults and of half a scruple for children. Calomel may be given with jalap in a dose of from 4 to 12 grains.

Experience has taught us that we may obtain sufficient purgative effects with the tincture of the seeds of colchicum, given to children in a dose of from 4 to 12 drops, and to adults in that of from 15 to 20 drops four times a day. This remedy is doubly useful in practice among the poor, as its cost is trifling, and because its taste may be so easily disguised in some mucilaginous drink that children may be made to take it without difficulty.

Emetics, the action of which is similar to that of purgatives, are seldom required in inflammations of the eye. The depletion produced is less complete than that produced by purgatives. The efforts which precede and accompany the act of vomiting, have the disadvantage of causing a determination of blood towards the head, and of consequence towards the eyes.—Tartarized antimony in large doses, not as an emetic, but as a counter-stimulant, may be used in violent ophthalmia according to the same rules which have been fixed for its use in inflammations of the other organs.

There are certain cases of chronic ophthalmia, complicated with abdo-
nal plethora or rheumatism, which are rapidly benefited by the use of tart-
arized antimony or ipecac in nauseating doses.—Boston Med. & Sur. Jour.

Blood-letting.

On a former occasion,* we gave some of Dr. Hall's observations on this very important subject, with his table of tolerance, &c. But we consider Dr. Hall's investigations on this subject

as so important—as having brought this recoursee of the physician from a course of haphazard use to a subserviency for true science; an improvement, more important than the introductions of weights and measures into pharmacy; that we feel that we cannot do our readers a greater service than to recall their attention to the subject, by the following extract from his lectures, through the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Blood-letting is so important, so powerful a remedy, so replete with consequences, both good and evil, according as it is well or ill applied, and I have made, as I believe, such improvement in its mode of exhibition, that I propose to enter at great length upon this subject. Part of what I have to say, must be said now in connection with the subject of inflammation: but part must be reserved for another entire lecture on blood-letting.

The great difficulty is to ascertain, when we have determined upon the institution of blood-letting, how much or how little blood shall be withdrawn. Where, where can you learn this? In what book—in what lectures? Shall we take ten, or fifteen, or twenty, or twenty-five, or thirty ounces of blood—or more? It may be said that, if the patient be young and robust, and if the disease be violent, we take much blood; but if the patient be feeble, and the disease slight, we take little. But how much? and how little? are still the questions—to which I know of no answer in medical writings or lectures.

Now it is precisely to determine these questions, which are questions of life and death, that I have a proposition to lay before you, of the utmost value in many, many points of view. The proposition applies to every case in which it is required to bleed the patient fully; that is, to the extent the system may bear and the disease require. It is full of safety, guiding us in the use of the lancet, and guarding us, at once, against excessive and inefficient blood-letting.

The plan I propose is this:—

Place the patient perfectly upright, in the sitting posture, and desire him to look towards the ceiling of the room; having previously prepared the arm, let the blood flow to the most incipient syncope.

If the patient be strong, and the inflammation be seated in the serous membranes, or parenchymatous substance of organs, and severe, much blood will flow; if the patient be feeble, and the inflammation be seated in the mucous membranes, and be moderate in extent and degree, little blood will flow; and not only this, but precisely as much and as little as the case requires, and the patient can safely bear to lose.

This is the plan, then, which I recommend you to adopt. Determine the first question—that the case requires the full detraction of blood, by the history, the symptoms, by the diagnosis; then adopt the mode of blood-letting which I have described, and all will be safe. You will often take more, and often less, than you would have done under the former system of guessing, but you will always take the proper quantity; you will not allow the disease to proceed, unchecked for want of the due use of the remedy; and you will not sink your patient by carrying it to excess.

But this is not all; for by the very quantity of blood which has been drawn, you will learn much relatively to the actual powers of the patient, and the degree and nature of the disease—much of a practical kind of diagnosis.

Nay, you will be much guided, in connection with the subsequent state of the patient, and by the previous duration of the actual symptoms of the disease, as to the repetition of the remedy—another most important point.

If much blood has flowed before incipient syncope has been induced, re-visit your patient soon; you will probably have to repeat the blood-letting in consequence of the severity of the disease, especially if you were not called in early in the first instance. If, on the contrary, little blood has flowed,
neither does the disease require, nor would the patient bear, further general
depletion. Is not this an interesting and important piece of information?
And is it to be found in medical writings or lectures? No; for even now,
many years since the rule was first suggested in my work on blood-letting, it
remains, either from inattention or jealousy, neglected, and unapplied in
practice except by a few. But you will appreciate it duly, you will adopt it
in your future career of practice, and will, in many a case of an anxious na-
ture, think of me with satisfaction, and, I trust, with some warmer feeling.
I consider the rule for the administration of blood-letting, which I have laid
before you, as the most important for conducting with safety the use of a
powerful remedy in the whole range of the practice of medicine; and I
deem myself happy in being its discoverer and promulgator. Would we had a
similar rule and guide, in the use of all our plans of treatment, fraught, as
they often are, with good or ill, according as they are applied with or with-
out judgment and skill.

An Elementary Treatise on Midwifery, or Principles of To-
ology and Embryology. By ALF. A. L. M. VELEPAU, M. D.
&c. Translated from the French, with notes. By CHAS. D.
MEIGS, M. D., Member of the American Philosophical Socie-
ty, Lecturer on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and
Grigg & Elliott, 9 North Fourth-street, 1838. pp. 592.

We have seen nothing from the author of the work now be-
fore us, but what declares its author to be a man of uncommon
natural endowments and unusual zeal and industry in the litera-
ry as well as practical departments of his profession. Whene-
ver there was room for progression in his subject he has gone
foward. Never content to see error or ignorance in a science
so important to humanity as his, when he has given a case or a
report of facts of any kind, it has been to develope some new
truth, remove the doubts which before obscured its beauty, or
to drive from their lurking places some of those hideous errors
which infest his professional curriculum. In the more fixed
branches of the science of medicine, those which are made up
of facts, as anatomy for example, where for much novelty, he
would have to transcend the boundaries of nature's truth, he
has of course not been able to do much more than set forth these
truths in a fair light.

His Human Ovology is indeed a master-work of his day, con-
taining every thing of merit which previous ages had produced
in human and comparative anatomy and physiology, so far as
it tended in the least to elucidate the truth; and also his own
and other investigations of the present day, all abundantly and
beautifully illustrated with costly engravings; and all combining
to render the science of human ovology plain and abundantly
interesting. We regret that this work has not been translated
into English: an event which we fear we shall never be called
on to announce, on account of the unavoidable high cost of such a work with the necessary illustrations, and the limited demand for even a splendid work and one highly interesting to the naturalist; but of little practical utility.

But no man has made to the medical profession in America, a richer offering than Dr. Meigs has in the translation of Velpeau's midwifery. He has given us a work fraught with deep science—a work which systematizes in the most accurate and lucid manner, the truths known to the profession, and with a mind competent to the end, looks into many of the hitherto obscure and dark places, grapples with truth, and, victorious by the mighty agency of genius and science, reveals it to the naked eye. We will not say that it contains every thing necessary for that department; far from it. Volumes, and perhaps ages will yet be employed in its farther developement, but nothing extant can be considered as containing as great a sum of usefulness for the accoucheur; and this too most happily arranged for the easy acquisition of the reader.

The first American edition of this work has been long before the public. It was a large edition we understand; and the resistless demand for the work since the first American edition was exhausted, which has compelled a second edition, declares at once the value which is put on it by the profession here. We are pleased with the magnanimity of the proprietor of the American edition, which is displayed in the republication of this work which had before received his very full commendation, at the very moment when he had just placed himself before the public in the capacity of author of a treatise intended, no doubt, to occupy the same place. We have not had the pleasure of seeing the work of Dr. Meigs, but have noticed its announcement in the northern journals. If it be a work of merit, (and it can scarcely be otherwise, from an author so conversant with the writings of Velpeau, and so well stored with practical facts of his own as Dr. M.) we trust it will not suffer a want of patronage by the profession, in consequence of the disinterested conduct of the American translator of Velpeau's Midwifery. There is a great error common amongst medical men, which consists in their satisfying themselves with only one good treatise on an important subject, or with one medical periodical, &c. A man would be about as wise to content himself with one idea when he might have two, or a dozen to proportionate advantage.—Each medical practitioner or teacher should take every respectable medical journal or publication; at least so far as his means will allow; and it were better to economise in some other way than in preventing the streams of knowledge, when this is his only vehicle to fame and usefulness in a profession, over whose short-comings humanity ever weeps. The same principles apply to every one who dares to approach the bed of accouchement.
Nothing but absolute inability should induce him to deny himself any means of fullest knowledge. He should remember that he is laboring in a department wherein there is a double responsibility, and this too, for the safety of the most interesting part of our species—lovely woman, and her more lovely and innocent offspring.

The present edition is a decided improvement on the first, both in paper and typography. Dr. Meigs, the American editor, has, though "with the utmost deference for the author," added a few foot notes, to which he has affixed his initial. On page 35 we find the first of these notes. The author in treating on deformity of the pelvis from excess of amplitude, says:

"During gestation, the womb being less completely supported, may be upset, either backwards or forwards, as long as its dimensions do not exceed the abdominal strait, and it may incline in any direction after the fourth month."

To this Dr. M. adds—

"I have seen a retroversion in a young virgin."

On page 54, Dr. M. in his note, considers the "hymen to be a fold, or duplication of the mucous lining of the orificium vaginae. It is, he says, in all respects analagous to the valvulae conniventes of the bowels. In many individuals it is ruptured by the sexual congress; in others, it escapes uninjured, and is not unfrequently met with in the examinations made during the conduct of labors." He considers it so "tractile and distensible, that it is even possible for a child to be born without destroying it, as I have (he has) ascertained in my (his) attendance on persons confined with a second parturition. I make (he makes) this statement with confidence, as I am (he is) sure it will be confirmed by persons much engaged in obstetric practice, who will take the trouble to make the enquiry."

On page 71, M. Velpeau, in speaking of the ligaments of the uterus, and particularly of the round ligaments or sur-pubic cords, says,

"Being put on the stretch by the ascent of the womb, it is possible that they may, when the woman is on foot, and particularly when on her knees, occasion pretty smart pains in the groins and thighs." Dr. Meigs adds—

"It is very common for women laboring under prolapsus uteri to complain of pain and soreness in the regions traversed by these cords. I am accustomed to the prescription of leeches for these regions, in many cases of uterine disease—as I consider that blood taken from capillaries here, actually effects depletion of the vessels of the uterine circulation."

"Vicious conformations of the vagina are not less frequent than those of the womb. Its total absence is pretty common. M. M. Boyer, Caillot, Willaume, and an infinity of others have seen it terminate in a cul de sac above the vulva, and not open externally at all; in some cases its vulvar opening exists, but is obliterated above, and does not extend to the uterus."

*Such a case as this we had under our care a few years since. The vulvar opening existed to the extent of one inch and a half, when it terminated in a cul de sac. The subject of it was a married lady about thirty years
All the students of the school of Paris may have seen a woman of this conformation a few months since in the wards of the Hotel Dieu. I have observed a similar disposition in a woman about thirty years of age, who had been delivered of a child five years previously, and had not had her menses since that period—Velpeau, p. 79.

Here Dr. Meigs relates the following interesting and afflicting case.

I have now a patient under care, who is about nineteen years of age.—The external organs are well formed. The pudendum being well covered with hair, as in a healthy individual. Upon separating the labia, it is found that there is no vagina. A shallow cul de sac is all that exists at the bottom of the vulva. A style in the urethra and a finger in the rectum, enables me to know that no vagina is interposed between the rectum and the urethra. The uterus, or what is supposed to be the uterus, is so large as to occupy the whole excavation, and to be felt two inches above the brim of the pelvis by a hand externally applied. The patient has suffered for several years, from monthly attacks of the most violent pain, which is only to be mitigated by large anodyne doses. Hoping to find a portion of vagina attached to the cervix, Dr. Randolph, by means of horizontal strokes, effected an opening which was large enough to receive the thumb, and at least three and a half inches in depth—yet no vagina was discovered, nor could we learn where the cervix uteri was placed. This artificial vagina was kept dilated with a golden bougie, which at last was abandoned on account of the irritation it caused. The distress of the patient increased pari passu with the monthly growth of the pelvic tumour, which we supposed to be the womb filled with the menstrual blood and hermetically enclosed. As a last resort, it was determined to tap the womb, and accordingly Dr. Randolph, with great precautions, pushed the point of a curved trocar at least two and a half inches in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the tumor. No fluid followed the puncture. The patient had a slight fever afterwards, from which she recovered in a few days. Such is the lamentable situation of this young and estimable girl. The agonies she endures at each menstrual period are pitiable.

She had never menstruated, but asserted that she had considerable monthly distress as in retention. On examination and pressing firmly in the depth of this vulvar canal, we thought we perceived a firm substance, the size of the os tinctae, which easily receded from the pressure. Hoping that the termination of the cul de sac was caused by an imperforate and unusually dense hymen, we applied a short speculum, and made a crucial incision through a very dense white substance, about one-eighth of an inch thick-sufficiently large to admit the end of the index finger. Beyond this was a body of very loose cellular structure, which yielded very easily to the knife, and indeed to the finger which was passed about an inch beyond, at which distance, the hard body was still perceptible, about as plainly as before the incision; and still receded with like ease, from the touch. At this state of the investigation of the case, the patient became unable to bear its longer continuance and it was dressed with a plug of lint covered with simple cerate and fitting the new opening. Before the removal of this, we were confined to the sick bed, and the patient was left to herself; whereon she declined a renewal of the effort in her case and left the city. We have not since seen her, but understand she is alive. There was no tumour perceptible in the hypogastrum.—Editor.
For a case of atresia vaginae in which the womb was tapped, a remarkably successful operation by Dr. Randolph, see the Phil. Prac. of Midwifery, by C. D. Meigs, p. 360. [Meigs.]

The next note by Dr. M. (p. 84) is one in which he declines translating the French terms given by M. Velpeau, by which the common people designate the menstrual flux, as "régles, lunes, mois, fleurs or fluëurs, purgation, affaires and époques." Here the editor gives the common English terms, as "menses, flowers, monthly discharge, show, regular discharge, monthlys, time," and the common allusion to it with a nod.

On page 106, M. Velpeau states that the weight of the whole ovum does not in general exceed seven to ten pounds. Dr. M. states that a patient under his care gave birth to twins, one of which weighed in the scales eight and a half, and the other eight pounds; the placenta was at least one pound, the water ten ounces—eighteen pounds.

It should have been remarked that the average dimensions and weight of the child in Europe will not do to be taught in this country. Our average is decidedly greater.

M. Velpeau in speaking (p. 117) of sympathetic phenomena, and rational signs of pregnancy, says—

"The neck swells, becomes softer, and is the seat of a congestion, which, according to Diogenes, was formerly indicated by Democritus, and which Catullus has mentioned in the following lines:

Non, illam nutrix, oriente luce, revisens,
Hesterno collum, poterit circumdare filo;
a congestion which Dumas says he has positively observed. But Dr. M. thinks there is more poetry than truth in the lines of Catullus. "The feet, (he says,) become less swollen, and the neck and face more swollen by a night spent in the horizontal position, and the lines are as applicable to men as they are to women."

On page 142, two notes are added by the editor: the first is intended to define and adopt into English use the word "viable" in the original, without translation. This is a convenient word and has no equal in our language for the same purpose. It has been adopted by the force of its convenience and appropriateness long since. It expresses well, as Dr. M. remarks, "that state of development in which the child may live, independent of its connexion with the mother."

The other note on the same page, is of important practical bearing; therefore we shall give it entire. It is appended to Velpeau's treatment of extra-uterine pregnancy.

"In as much as the diagnosis of extra-uterine pregnancy can in no case be absolutely clear and undeniable, the question of gastrotomy is one of the most difficult that can be presented to the surgeon. While the woman continues to enjoy even a moderate degree of health, I think few surgeons could be found, bold enough to recommend or effect the incisions requisite for the extraction of the fetus; the more particularly, since the patient may, as in many examples has been shewn, continue to live for ten, twenty, and even fifty years, without great suffering or discomfort, and as she enjoys the
further prospect of getting rid of the difficulty by suppuration, and the other
modes pointed out by Velpeau. A caserian operation would be far less
dangerous than a gastrectomy for extra uterine pregnancy, because the con-
traction of the womb after delivery by the caserian section, obliterates the
great danger of internal hemorrhage, a circumstance which cannot be predi-
cated of the incisions into an accidental sac containing the extra uterine
fetus. For a very excellent paper on uterine pregnancy, see Dr. James'
article in the North-American Medical and Surgical Journal, volume iv.
page 273." — [Melgr.]

"In uterine Tympanitis the womb may acquire a considerable size, but
it always remains very light, there is no ballottement, and percussion of the
belly occasions such a resonance as at once dissipates all uncertainty." —
[Velpeau, p. 144.]

Here Professor Velpeau is very positive—a manner which
he is not wont to adopt, but on personal knowledge. Such a
resonance is afforded by percussion "as at once dissipates all
uncertainty." Yet Dr. M. seizes this occasion to say that he
"cannot admit the existence of uterine tympanitis as a disease
proper"—asserting that it is not possible to retain air within the
womb without the aid of a tampon of some sort. "There is no
ground," says he, "to believe in the existence of such a malady;"
We have indeed never met with a case of uterine tympanitis,
nor hydrops uteri, properly so called; but cases of the latter
malady have been too often well attested, and demonstrated by
the actual discharge of their contents, to admit a reasonable doubt
of its possibility to exist. Now, with regard to the tympanitis
alluded to, we perceive no natural impossibility of its existence,
and the air making the tumefaction, promptly retained; more
than the existence and retention of the fluid in the case of drop-
sy. As to the origin of the air, that is another matter; so is the
origin of the fluid in dropsy. But we are not to disbelieve a fact
which stands before us on authority which we have no right to
impeach, merely because we do not understand by what philoso-
phy its occurrence is brought about. If a crystal stream should
gush forth in our presence from a rock in the mountain's top,
we see it, allay our parching thirst with it, we cannot hesitate
to acknowledge the certainty of the fact because we do not know
a fountainhead to raise the water to the great height, accor-
ding to hydraulic principles; or the force, and the manner of
its application, whereby the rock was rent: or even if, contrary
to the known laws of hydraulics, the water should rise to a
height far above its level, we still cannot deny the fact, because
we do not know by what strange influence the hitherto supposed
laws of nature could be thus modified. Truths are insuperable
things—not to be laid aside because we may not understand
why they are so, but to be received on competent evidence of the
fact and used in the practical or rational department. When
therefore, such a man as Velpeau asserts, as he does, the actual
facts of tympany of the uterus, we have as much reason to be-
lieve the fact, as we have the statements about dropsy, which all
admit.
But we are induced to suppose, that Dr. M. has mistaken the matter, and concluded that the tympany of the uterus has been supposed to exist, from the occasional discharge of air from the vagina; a phenomenon almost universal with every woman laboring under prolapsus, after the proper replacement has been effected; for the uterus is never easily and effectually corrected after descensus uteri, without the admission of air into the vagina to occupy its place. Thus air is always found to regurgitate on the re-descent of the uterus, making an audible and most disagreeable sound.

M. Velpeau in treating on (p. 185) the vascular connexion of the uterus and placenta, acknowledges that he has "vainly sought for these utero-placental vessels in a great number of subjects," and is convinced, by the condition of the parts that, if they sometimes exist, they are far more frequently wanting.—He says, that whenever he has examined the ovum in the uterus after the third month, its surface, as well as that of the womb was smooth throughout its whole extent, and that not a single vessels served to maintain the connexion between those two parts. He concludes, however, that it is yet fairly a subject for investigation, and consequently of uncertainty, as evinced by the following questions; "might not the learned authors whom I have mentioned, (Dubois, Biancini, Reuss and Albinus,) have been deceived by some anomaly, some pathological state, or some false appearances? Could I have been mistaken myself? Time and additional facts alone can resolve the question," &c. Dr. M. here gives his testimony to the same point. He has carefully examined the separation of the ovum from the womb at full term and could never see the smallest vessel passing from one to the other; and does not believe there is any utero-placental connexion appreciable by the senses.

On this subject, one fact is clear; it is that the maternal blood does pass into the fetus in the latter months of gestation. The facts of pregnancy, gestation, character and circumstances of the fetus settle this point. Nor may ornithological ovology be brought to operate against this truth; for the analogy only holds tolerably good before the umbilical cord is perforate throughout, and whilst the alantoid and umbilical vesicles continue to afford nourishment. For whilst the young fowl breaks its enclosure and comes forth to independent life, after its vesicular nutrition is exhausted, the human fetus continues to grow from a few ounces to many pounds weight, the very ratio of which increase proves that a new source of nourishment pours forth its contributions. If then, the maternal blood actually passes into the offspring, the enquiry is forced on the mind, through what medium does it come? For it must not come by irregular sluices, but most gradually at first, and with great regularity and in an increasing ratio subsequently. This can only be effected through the medi-
um of vessels; and even these must not be so arranged as to allow the direct impulse of the maternal heart on the now tender organization of the foetus; for this would be a competent cause of death in the latter. In order then that the strong maternal pulsation may not destroy the offspring, venous imbibition is instituted, whereby the blood is most gradually and softly poured into the foetal circulation just before it enters the foetal heart, where it is to become diffused in the general mass and equally distributed to every part. Such are the suggestions of reasoning from known effects to appropriate and proportionate causes. Now what have the anatomical investigations for the elucidation of this subject proved? That there is a vein placed exactly where, and of just such construction and arrangement as is demanded for use. This vein is perforate through its whole length from the time the vesicular nourishment is exhausted.—But where does it originate? In the cells of that organ (the placenta,) which is attached to the womb, and the office of which vein is, in part, to return this umbilical arterial blood into the circulation of the foetus. But were this all, no farther development would be effected after about the fourth month, as there is no effect without cause, present and competent to the effect. It follows that, if the foetus continue to grow, it must acquire additional nourishment. But no other source of increment remains to the foetus, but through the umbilical vein. As this arises in the placenta, it must imbibe its additional nourishment for increase, there. The final question then arises, how does this nourishment get there and from whence does it come? Many have not been able, notwithstanding their best use of injections, to detect the slightest vascularity between the uterus and placenta. Amongst them are included some of the best practitioners; but others, as Dubois and Biancini have, on the other hand declared that they have injected them; and Reuss given drawing of them, and Albinus and others observed them. The communication is however still demanded by the necessities of the case.

This brings us to a survey of the circumstances of the parts and the organization concerned, for ascertaining why investigators have arrived at such opposite results. Here we find in the gravid uterus many substances most wisely arranged, and so tender they are deciduous. The attachment of the foetus to the placenta is tender and intended to be deciduous—so is the placenta itself with the membranes. And this appears to be the order of creative wisdom, in relation to reproduction; that all parts which are only temporarily necessary, should exist no longer than the necessity; and at the same time, so tender as to pass away without much resistance. Now, whatever communication does exist between the uterus and placenta, is of this kind. If, therefore, injections be thrown into this attachment, it
must be by a very delicate and experienced hand, so to fill them as to demonstrate, without rupturing them. This, however, has not generally been the consequence of attempting injections, and the injection has been found in an irregular mass between the two parts. But others have, with better success so filled them as to display them. Is it not then altogether probable that the utero-placental vessels do exist; but are of such soft and delicate structure as to be easily lacerated, and then shrink away and become unobservable? Whence comes the blood in cases of concealed hemorrhage, and indeed in all uterine hemorrhages? If it were from the fetus, the mother could not feel the effects of its loss. But it not only comes from the part where the placenta adheres, but it sinks and exhausts the mother. It follows, therefore that the vessels of the mother do pour out blood from the womb, where the placenta is attached, in a manner in which they do not in other parts of the uterus. Now why do these vessels become so enlarged immediately at the placental attachment only? And what becomes of the unusually great quantity of blood thus transmitted to the inside of the uterus? Can any one suppose that these vessels come to the inner surface of the uterus and cease? Every thing proves the existence of vascular communication between these parts—the necessity from the beginning, the effects produced, the visible structure in connection, &c.

Effect declares cause, although that cause may not be detectable by the senses or the ingenuity of man. We have no right to conclude there is no atmospheric air, because it is not sensible to the eye or touch. But so far as the evidence of man is to be received, these vessels have been demonstrated by injection, illustrated by drawings and seen by many. One ascertained, positive fact, is of more value in the ascertainment of truth, than a thousand negative ones.

Of "four thousand children born at the Maternité at Paris in a given time, Madame Lachapelle never met with one weighing twelve pounds. Baudelocque, who had a case where the child weighed twelve pounds and three quarters, maintained that it is incredible that a larger one was ever seen. According to Chaus- sier, the weight of the child is frequently only five, four, and sometimes three, or only two and a half pounds."—(Velpeau, p. 201.) The incredible weights given by people out of the profession, and even many authors of the eighteenth century, M. Velpeau attributes (and, without doubt, very correctly,) to an undue estimate of the weights, without taking the trouble to weigh the child; and says, "in fact, a new-born child of eight or nine pounds is enormous."

"Nevertheless," says Dr. M. "I beg leave to affirm that new born children weighing ten pounds, are by no means rare in the United States. I have weighed many at eleven and a half, and
several at twelve pounds." And finally, he states that he weight
ed one child of thirteen and a half, the mother of which died, how-
ever, a few days after delivery.
We are able to confirm Dr. M.'s assertion, that "children of
ten pounds are not uncommon in the United States"; although
the usual weight is between seven and a half and ten, still
we have met with many from eleven to thirteen, by actual
weight on the day of birth. Several we have seen, over thir-
ten; and one of seventeen, but this was removed by embroy-
tomy, after labor, which had commenced five days previous, but
which had worn off, leaving the woman languid and exhausted,
and insusceptible of a renewal of labor. This case was twelve
miles from town, and amongst unenlightened people in the coun-
try—hence its neglect for so long a time. The child was
delivered by the perforator, crotchet and blunt hook. Consider-
able brain and some blood was lost. The weight of all that was
preserved was seventeen pounds. This weight was not owing
to unusual cellular repletion, but its increased length was pro-
portionate to its weight; and the measure was preserved a
length of time; but keeping no case book at the time, it was not
recorded and is forgotten. Contrary to expectation, the woman
had a good getting-up. The opinion of the patient and her
friends was that she had by several months transcended the
usual period of nine months.
In a note to p. 208, Dr. M. corrects Velpeau's expression,
that the foetus is "suspended" by means of the umbilical cord. Dr.
M. very properly considers the child is not suspended, because
the cord almost always exceeds in length, the diameter of the
uterine cavity at term, by many inches, and often by several
feet. It is therefore only connected with its parent by the cord.
We can assert, however, that there are cases of suspension by
the cord; and indeed we have been once obliged to divide the
cord before delivery could be effected; but the suspension is
owing to the winding of the cord around some part of the child.
Our notice of this new edition of Velpeau's Midwifery, has
been protracted greatly beyond our intention when we took it
up. We regret that it is not consistent with our limits to con-
tinue to notice the substance of Dr. Meigs' notes throughout.
These are interesting, and often of much practical utility. But
we must conclude with the following note (on p. 244), referring
our readers to the work itself for the balance, and believing that
no practitioner who can form a due estimate of it, will think of
contenting himself with any thing short of possessing a copy.
Appended to Velpeau's treatment of Abortion, is the following
note by Dr. M.
"Dr. Physick told me that he was accustomed to order an anodyne ene-
ema every night at bed-time, for such of his patients as were prone to abor-
tion. Fifty drops of laudanum and a wine-glass of flax-seed tea was thrown

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into the rectum regularly at night, with a view to any too great tendency to uterine contraction. I have, in several instances, happily succeeded in conducting the woman to full term by this method of treatment—I have also sometimes found it to fail."

We now bring our notice of this work to a close, leaving its interesting pages with reluctance; but not without again renewing the high gratification we feel on the appearance of a new edition, with the annotations of the American editor. We hope the edition is a copious one.

The subject of abortion, at which we stop, is one of great interest, and one of which we feel impelled to say something more than barely to notice it briefly in passing over Velpeau's work; and more especially, when we find it left as it is by this justly celebrated accoucheur, whose acquirements may be considered as the sum of what is valuable in the profession. We will prepare a few remarks on the subject in a future number of this journal.

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**PART III.—MONTHLY PERISCOPE.**

_Southern Medical and Surgical Journal._ We congratulate the medical profession of the south on the sustentation of this journal, so far that it has been enabled to enter on the third volume, of which this is the first monthly number. We are duly conscious of the many faults of the work. These have been unavoidable, from the want of editorial experience, and of leisure from other, and indispensable duties. But we trust that, notwithstanding it has not been brought up to that degree of merit it should possess, still we feel free to declare that it has been the means of disseminating amongst the profession much useful matter, which, without this medium, would never have been laid before southern physicians. We have ventured forth as pioneers, opened the way, to level the road, and threw up works for future passengers; and feel that it were better to have pressed through the undertaking in the best way we could, be that as it might, than to have retreated or stopped short. The way is now open—the brambles and sinks made passable, and the opportunity of increasing usefulness is before us.

We trust in the kindness of a liberal profession, to be excused by all parties in medicine for not having given our labors to the support of either party, or of any opinion, which may have been
the fashionable one of the day, which had not reason to maintain and establish its correctness. Our future course designed is the same as heretofore, so far as true philosophy in medicine is concerned. We are still disposed to give to facts their proper supremacy, and to deduce from the true nature of things as ascertained, inductive truth. We have endeavored to bring into operation, a perfect freedom of mind, unfettered by any partiality or prejudice, and ready to receive and pursue the indications of the facts of nature. We wish not to depend on our own resources for the entertainment and instruction of our readers; this could not long prove satisfactory or eminently useful, if at all, unsupported by that variety of materials which can only be obtained from the thoughts and experience of many. We hope, therefore, that in future, the abundant talent in the profession at the south, in the praise of which, our acquaintance justifies our speaking freely, will be brought into more active operation in the literary bearing of the profession, and that each will feel it both a privilege and a duty, to bring up to the sacrifice some time, and some labor, that others may be benefitted, the dignity and usefulness of the profession enhanced, and our common country honored.

We occupy an older country than our western and northwestern brethren, but our efforts in the cause of our favorite science does not half equal theirs. We ask then of the friends of medical science every where, but we urge those of the south particularly, because we are in their midst, and because of their shortcoming heretofore, to come forward with their contributions to the general weal. We wish not such communications as we shall be obliged to manufacture anew. We have not time, talent, nor disposition for this; but all facts of substantial utility, either in the practice or the philosophy of medicine, we and our readers will receive most gratefully; and by these alone can the honor and usefulness of the profession at the south be advanced.

Judicious, well written, brief reviews of new publications will be gratefully received from our readers and friends, as they would save us time, and assist us in doing more justice to this department than we can alone do: for we owe an apology to many friends at a distance for not having noticed their pamphlets, lectures, books, &c. which have been forwarded to us. We hope to do better in future, in this respect.

Editor.

Operation for the Restoration of the Lower Lip.—A young man belonging to Warren, R.I. while on a whaling voyage, in the month of December last, being in an open boat, was struck by a whale in such a manner as to force an oar against his face with sufficient violence to carry away a portion of the anterior surface of the superior maxillary bone, and, worse still, the largest part of the under lip. In this unsightly and truly melancholy condition
he returned from the voyage. On presenting himself for advice to Dr. Lew. is, of this city, he exhibited the following spectacle. Although the wound, in a measure, had healed, no liquid could be retained in the mouth without covering the void, formerly controlled by the under lip, with one hand, close- ly pressed against the uneven and exposed dental wall. Besides these for- midable difficulties, in consequence of the rent made in the bones of the roof of the mouth, his articulation was imperfect. The saliva, unless it was con- trolled by a handkerchief, was constantly drivelling over the chin. Under these circumstances Dr. Lewis operated on Monday, the 21st June, with a view, primarily, of remedying the deformity. The process was essentially similar to the common operation for hare lip—the wound being dressed after the admirable method of Dr. Walker, of Charlestown, whose success in such cases is well known in this community. Fortunately, the wound healed by the first intention, and the patient, to his great gratification, is relieved from the manifold inconveniences to which he was subjected for the want of a lip. An artificial palate is to be made for him by Dr. Harwood, next week, which will undoubtedly enable him to converse again in his accustomed tone of voice.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*

**Bandage for the Cure of Prolapsus Uteri.—**Dr. Robert Thompson, of Co- lumbus, Ohio, has invented an apparatus for the cure or palliation of *prolap- sus uteri*, which we have not had an opportunity of testing, but which seems well in appearance; and, in his own practice, we are told, has answered every desirable end. It makes firm pressure around the pelvis, holds up the abdominal viscera, and supports the perineum and vulva.—*Boston Journal from Western Med. Jour.*

We see in the above, nothing more nor less than the very claims preferred which attach to Hull's Utero-abdominal Supporter; unless indeed, Dr. Thompson's invention may be afford- ed for the use of patients on more moderate terms than Hull's; an article which, like his *patent* truss, has only been accessible by the patient at two, if not three times the worth of the work and materials employed in their manufacture. Practitioners should condemn, in the most unqualified terms, the custom of taking advantage of a protected right, to secure to themselves many times the value of their labor.

Such has been the enormous price of this article, which should not be worth more than two or three dollars at most, that at first the consumer could not obtain them at the second sale from the factory under fifteen dollars, a price entirely too high for ena- bling the practitioner or patient to experiment with an article of such doubtful efficacy; and consequently, practitioners have been obliged in many instances to receive back a second-hand supporter, because he could not extort from his patient such a price for an article which did not effect any useful end; and druggists, have already been obliged to dispose of them at cost and charges. But we have more serious objections to the sup- porter than even its price, which we shall embrace the earliest opportunity of laying before the public. We wish success to Dr. Thompson's bandage; but from the nature of things, we have no confidence whatever in its curative powers, and very
little indeed in its utility in preventing the onward progress of that disease, for which it is desired to be considered a remedy. Only a proper knowledge of the causes of the production and perpetuation of prolapsus uteri, and the real condition and powers of the parts concerned is necessary to assure the practitioner that it is no easy matter to produce a remedy by any application which may supersede the necessity for the frequent assistance of the practitioner or competent nurse. And when we hear practitioners speak about curing it generally by such means, we feel that we are only assured of their ignorance of the disease, or their superficial observations on the cases subjected to their treatment.

Superfetation.—The fact of superfetation, so long mooted by physiologists, may now be considered as no longer a matter of doubt. The facts reported within the last two or three years are, alone, sufficient to settle in the mind of every physiologist the truth of the possibility and even the occurrence of this phenomenon. It is not a little curious and amusing to contemplate the course of the mind of man relative to truths which are considered rare. The adoption of an opinion or a fact, which does not strike the mind forcibly at first with the impression of its truth, is sometimes as difficult, as finding the correct explanation of a conundrum which is often allowed so to puzzle the mind as to render it entirely incapable of using the very answer, when given in so many words. It seems to search the world of ideas over to find something other than the truth; and this seems to be barred out from the mind by a thousand possible or imaginary difficulties in the way of its reception; whilst at the same time the same truth, as to its unreasonableness or improbability is found demonstrated on every hand. It is the case with regard to many subjects in the different departments of medical science. Such has been the case with regard to the subject at the head of this paragraph. Cases after cases as well attested as we should desire for any truth, and on as good authority, have been in all ages detailed to the public, in which this has occurred in the human subject; and comparative anatomy, which we cultivate, and to which we resort for illustration and confirmation of human anatomy and physiology, abounds with this truth, as in many quadrupeds and fowls; and still the point thus established, instead of being received as truth, is turned aside by every flimsy possibility which the mind of man can array in opposition. Indeed it is not yet a well-established fact, that this is not a very frequent occurrence with our own species. Cases of twins, triplets, &c. may in many, if not in all instances consist of superfetation; for it is not in the least, more convenient to conceive of two ova being impregnated simultaneous-
ly, than successively. Be this as it may, the truth of its occurrence in animal physiology is spread over a large portion of the face of nature. It is even found in the physiology of plants.—All reproductive nature illustrates this truth. The two following cases, one in the human species, and the other in a quadruped are given in the last American Journal, (August 1838.) from the Revue Médicale, for March, 1838.

Superfetation in the human species.—Madame C, the mother of several children, became pregnant in the month of June, 1837, and nothing remarkable occurred until the 20th of September, when, without any ascertainable cause, a slight discharge took place from the vagina, and continued for eight days, when it increased, and pains came on: Dr. P. was sent for, and on examining the clots of blood, found in them, first a fetus of three months, without its annexes, and next, one entire ovum, on opening of which last, he found a fetus of not more than five weeks. The secondaries of the first fetus were discharged the following day.

This case was communicated by Dr. Pertus.

Superfetation in the Goat. This case was communicated to Dr. Pertus by Dr. Berjaud. A goat received the caresses of a ram the beginning of December, 1836, and was supposed to have been fecundated. However, she continued to manifest desire for the male, and she was gratified in this desire fifteen days after the first connexion. From this moment the animal appeared satisfied, she began to increase in size, and about the beginning of May she brought forth two young ones, perfectly formed, but which soon perished, for the mother would not suckle them. Her abdomen continued large, and fifteen days subsequently, to the surprise of her keeper, she gave birth to three perfectly formed young, to which she shewed great eagerness to give her milk. These young lived three days. It may be well to remind the reader that the term of gestation in the goat is five months, and the number of their young generally two—never more than three.

On the use of Chloride of Lime in Wounds attended with much pain, by Dr. Chopin. In wounds produced by contusion, laceration, or by the explosion of gunpowder, where there is much pain, speedy and certain relief, says Dr. C., is produced by chloride of lime. That this relief is not the effect of cold or any other cause than the chloride in solution, the author is convinced by many experiments. Charpie, moistened with the same solution, has been also found a useful application in relieving crescences in the vagina. That such is frequently the case, Dr. C. is convinced from repeated examination. Excoriated breasts are most efficiently treated by the use of the same external application.—Brit. and For. Med. Rev.

Typhus Fever in London. It seems that a fever, unusually severe in the city of London, has become rather alarming on account of the number of medical gentlemen who have fallen victims to it. This had led some of the principal citizens to an opinion that they are harboring an infectious disease of unusual malignancy. Typhus fevers, in England, are never so manageable in their cities, as in the cities of this country:—Bost. Med. Jour.
MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Medical College of Georgia.

The next course of lectures will commence in this institution, on the second Monday in November. This institution which has laboured so much to render the course of instruction more useful than it can possibly be otherwise, by affording more time and opportunity for improvement, has been obliged to conform to the usual custom of a short course. However desirable and important the object in view may have been, and cit. par., nothing less could have answered the same valuable purpose, it has been found impossible for one school, and especially one as new as this, to enforce such a regulation without the co-operation of the others. It has therefore reduced the period of its course to that of the other institutions.

The following is the organization of this College at present.
G. M. Newton, M. D. Professor of Anatomy.
Charles Davis, M. D. Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.
Joseph A. Eve, M. D. Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica.
L. A. Dugas, M. D. Professor of Physiology and Pathological Anatomy.
M. Antony, M. D. Professor of Obstetrics & Diseases of Women & Infants.
L. D. Ford, M. D. Professor of Institutes and Practice of Medicine.
Paul F. Eve, M. D. Professor of Principles and Practice of Surgery.

Professor Newton will discharge the duties of Demonstrator of Anatomy; by which the class will have free admission to all the demonstrations.

The employment of such talent as Dr. Newton in the demonstratorship is a rare feature in any College.

Another most interesting and important feature of this College is, that the distinguished Professor Dr. Charles Davis, and Professor Newton, devote their whole time to their professorships.

Introductory Lecture by Dr. Joseph A. Eve.

Medical College of the State of South-Carolina.

The following extract from the annual circular of this Southern Institution, gives a statement of its present organization:

The Faculty of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina announce, that the annual session of the College will commence on the second Monday of November as usual. An Introductory Lecture will be given on that day at noon, and the regular course will be resumed on the following morning.

Jefferson Medical School.

The professors of this school announce some changes in its organization and arrangements, which they consider essential. These are an independent character, under the title of Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, with an increase of its number of Trustees from ten to fifteen. The character confers the same powers and restrictions as the University of Pennsylvania.

The regular course of lectures in this institution will begin on the first Monday in November. The following is its organization:

Professors—Surgery, George McClellan, M. D.; Chemistry, Jacob Green, M. D.; Materia Medica and Pharmacy, Samuel Colhoun, M. D.; Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children, Samuel McClellan, M. D.; Anatomy, Granville Sharp Pattison, M. D.; Principles and Practice of Physic, John Revere, M. D.; Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence, Robley Dunglison, M. D.; Samuel Colhoun, M. D.—Dean of the Medical Faculty.

Medical College of South-Carolina.

With the annual announcement of the professors of this institution, we have been presented with an extensive catalogue of the contents of its valuable museum.

The annual course of lectures in this institution will commence on the second Monday in November next. The following is its organization:

Faculty—B. B. Strobel, M. D. Professor of Anatomy; Elias Horry Deas, M. D. Professor of Surgery; Thomas Y. Simons, M. D. Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine; Henry Alexander, M. D. Professor of Inst. of Medicine and Materia Medica; Wm. Hume, M. D. Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy; Francis Y. Porcher, M. D. Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children; A. G. Mackey, M. D. Demonstrator of Anatomy.

Dean of the Faculty—Thomas Y. Simons, M. D.

Clinical Lecturers—At Alms House, A. G. Mackey, M. D.—At Marine Hospital, B. B. Strobel, M. D.

We regret that we have not yet received the annual circular of the other medical colleges for the ensuing season. It is with great pleasure that we witness the rising prosperity of the southern country in the increase of medical institutions. Every movement of the kind, if properly organized and regulated, cannot fail to enhance the character of the profession as well as its usefulness at the south, and generally.

One circumstance is peculiarly gratifying in this contemplation: it is that amongst these institutions there appears to be no disposition to lower the standard of professional merit.

Medical Prize Question.

The sum of one hundred dollars is offered by the Medical Society of the State of New York, for the best dissertation on "The Diseases of the Spinal Column—their diagnosis, history and mode of treatment."

Communications are to be made to the Secretary of the Medical Society of the State of New York, on or before the first of January, 1839.

We regret that the notice of this which we have seen, has not given the address of the Secretary;