



Treatment of the Cholera.

MR. EDITOR.—In the Tribune of the 2d inst. is a long article in the form of an advertisement, from the pen of Dr. Brandreth. The article is a criticism on the Report of the Surgeons related to the Board of Health in this city. Their report recommended the use of opium. He condemns it and recommends, as is very natural, "Brandreth's Pills." Those pills are of undoubted virtue to the author of them, and the wonder is, that any person can be so stupid as to die, when such a thing as "Brandreth's Pills" are in existence. All the information we have of the Cholera, or any other infectious disease, is very limited. Who can tell what the subtle poison is that pollutes the fountain of health—what poisonous ether that changes the red current of life to the turbid pale tint of death. Who can tell but the poison of the disease would only receive fuel from a Brandreth Pill. Experience is the guide—and opium or arsenic may be safely and well applied for some diseases.

The same treatment that would answer for one might be injudicious treatment for another. In the genius and judgement of the physicians, much confidence must be placed. The premonitory symptoms generally, though not invariably, observed, are headache a furred tongue, nausea, diarrhoea, with more or less uneasiness, if not pains, in the bowels, and at times a cramp in the legs.

These, at times, quickly assume the appearance of a severe attack, vomiting and purging becoming frequent, and soon followed by the characteristic symptoms. Hence the necessity for prompt attention, in even slight derangement of the bowels, during the existence of an epidemic atmosphere.

As many modes of treatment, prescriptions of this and that nature, have been brought before the public, I do not mean to say a word about one of them, only to recommend a warm bath which should be given as soon as possible. The patient should also have a small piece of ice applied between his lips. This mode of treatment I have not noticed in any public paper, and from a knowledge of its simple efficacy I have from pure motives, as I have no pills to sell, presented it to the public.

J. W., M. D.

New York.

The Magnetic Telegraph.

The U. S. Gazette says House's new line of telegraph, which is to connect New York with Boston, has been completed from the latter place to Providence, and it is believed that it will be in operation the whole length by the 1st of July next. It is built in the most perfect manner. The wire on the Halifax and Amherst line is proceeding with great vigor. A Mr. Hildreth, of Lockport, has completed a model for a telegraph line, the wires of which are to be laid in iron pipes under the ground. The expense of a single wire is set down at \$200 per mile.

[As we have had a number of communications about the isolating of telegraph wires, by laying them down in tubes, we would state that the first telegraph in England, was laid down in glass tubes. A plan for isolating in lead tubes is illustrated in Vol. 3 Scientific American.

Average Income of Man.

By Mr. McCulloch we learn that the average income of every person in England is £16 a year, or about 22 cents a day; and for every person in Ireland £6 a year, or 8 cents a day. Chevalier's admirable Lectures on French Political Economy, estimates for each person in France about \$45 a year, or 12½ cts. a day. Our own census estimates the average product of the richest State in the Union \$100 for each person or 30 cents per day, while the whole country taken together, Slave States and all, yields an annual product of but \$62 for each person, or about 17 cents per day.

The distribution of this is far more equal in this country, however, than in any other.

Arrival of Mr. Alexander Bain.

Mr Bain, inventor and patentee of the Chemical Telegraph, arrived from Liverpool on Saturday by the Niagara, with a great variety of beautiful telegraph machinery, to be used as models by mechanists, and has improved his composing machines so that a boy or girl can compose the Telegraph Messages at the rate of 100 to 140 letters per minute, instead of 45 as formerly. He has also introduced many minor improvements in the transmitting and receiving machines, which so facilitates operations as to leave nothing to be desired. Mr. B. has closed his affairs in England, and it is probable he will make America his future home, and he will make a good and respected citizen. We hope to see the day when our Republic will be the foster mother of Science as well as rational liberty.

Meteoric Iron in South Carolina.

The last number of Silliman's Journal contains an account of a mass of meteoric iron which has been discovered in South Carolina, several years since, by a laborer on the plantation of Mr. S. M. McKeown, in the Chesterfield district. On being accidentally shown to a blacksmith, he proved it to be malleable, and out of it he made a pair of hinges, a few nails, and a horse shoe. The original weight of the mass was thirty-six pounds.

On being analyzed, this iron was found to contain nickel, traces of chromium, cobalt, and nebular masses of magnetic pyrites. Its most remarkable peculiarity, according to Professor Silliman consists in the appearance of the polished surface when treated with dilute nitric acid, which is then covered with a great variety of beautiful figures. It is very dense, and takes a brilliant polish: but its etched surface immediately distinguishes it from every other iron hitherto described.

The Value of Cold Water.

The Louisville Courier says.—"We are much gratified to be able to state that Judge McKinley, the distinguished jurist of the Supreme Court of the United States, after having his vision so seriously impaired for fifty-two years that he could not see without glasses has recovered his sight so perfectly, that he is now able to read without glasses. For half a century this faculty was so seriously impaired that without glasses he was almost blind. It is the recovery of his constitutional health, by which the sight has been reinvigorated.—Judge McKinley very properly ascribes it to the daily use of cold water on the head and surface of the body. Of the importance of the use of cold water in maintaining and restoring health, no one who has ever tried it can entertain a doubt. And we refer to Judge McKinley's gratifying success in the restoration of his vision from its long sleep, for the purpose of encouraging other invalids to resort to this cheap and powerful mode of medication."

Boiling Potatoes.

A Correspondent of the London Times says.—"The following method of dressing potatoes will be found of great service at this season of the year when the skins are tough and potatoes are watery: Score the skin of the potatoe with a knife lengthways and across quite round, and then boil the potatoes in plenty of water with salt, with the skins on. The skin readily cracks where it is scored, and lets out the moisture, which otherwise renders the potatoes soapy and wet.—The improvement to bad potatoes by this method of boiling is very great; and all who have tried it find a great advantage in it, now that good potatoes are very difficult to be obtained."

Eriessons Condensing and Distilling Apparatus.

Extract from the journal of Capt. James C Baker, commanding U. S. transport steamer "Alabama," on her voyage from New Orleans to Chagres and back, in March, 1849:

The condensing apparatus for making fresh water for the use of passengers and crew works admirably, furnishing 1,200 gallons, if necessary, per twenty four hours, enabling us to dispense with at least 3,000 gallons of water, which weight can be carried in fuel or cargo. We drank this water from choice during the whole voyage; it is as clear as the purest spring water.

Population of the World.

The last estimate of the world is as follows:

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|-------------|
| Asia, | : | : | 585,000,000 |
| Europe, | : | : | 234,000,000 |
| Africa, | : | : | 110,000,000 |
| America, | : | : | 50,000,000 |
| Oceania, | : | : | 21,000,000 |

Total, : : 1,000,000,000

Of this number there are:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| Heathen, | : | : | 600,000,000 |
| Mahomedans, | : | : | 140,000,000 |
| Jews, | : | : | 10,000,000 |
| Roman Catholics, | : | : | 130,000,000 |
| Greek Church, | : | : | 55,000,000 |
| Protestant denomination, | : | : | 65,000,000 |

By the above table it appears, that out of a population of a thousand millions, the Christians can claim but one fifth of that inconceivable number.

The Mining Population of England.

It is estimated that upwards of 800 persons annually meet with violent death in the mines of Great Britain and it is believed that these accidents might be nearly all prevented by a proper system of ventilation, &c. It is proposed to appoint an Inspector of Mines; also to have mining schools or some other arrangement to provide a better class of men for underground bailiffs. This subject has been too long neglected. If the people were represented in Parliament all such matters would soon be efficiently attended to.

The Crops in Ohio.

The farmers in Preble County, as well as those in the whole Miami and Mad River valleys, are expecting fine crops. The wheat looks remarkable well. There are more acres of wheat this year in this portion of Ohio, than there have ever been before. We are informed by farmers that the late cold "snap" did not effect the apple crops. The peaches and cherries are much less injured than was anticipated. A good half crop of both may be expected. In Lake county the peach crop will be very large.

Magnetism.

The remarkable discovery has been made that all substances whatever are magnetic or dia magnetic; and that some, such as gold, silver, point East and West. Even the gases, and the flames of burning bodies, are subject to magnetic influence, and what, in a scientific point of view, is still more interesting, a relation has been found to exist between magnetism and light. The magnetic needle has also been discovered to be subject to violent agitations and disturbances, and that these disturbances occur at the same instant of time on every side of the globe—at Toronto in Canada, at the Cape of Good Hope, at Sidney in New Holland, and in Europe and Asia.

Alabama Iron.

From the Alabama Planter, we learn that new iron works have been erected in Shelby county in that State. Since the first of March they have made 5 tons of pig iron per day, which has been used for moulding and found equal to the famous Scotch pig. This is certainly good news, as we have not yet had any native pig iron fit for casting good smooth hollow ware.

Meals on the North River Boats.

Some of our North River Boats have adopted the custom of our Eating Houses, by paying only for what they choose to eat. At the sound of the bell, all who choose take their seats and order such a breakfast or dinner as they desire from a card of dishes set up before them. Each eats what he wants and pays for it the stipulated price, and those who eat two shillings worth are not requested to average bills with those who gormandize to the value of a dollar.

Railroads.

The passenger cars on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad have commenced between Cumberland and Baltimore, to run the distance in a half hour shorter time than they did last year.

Mr. Daniel Ayer, of Lowell, will pay upwards of \$6000 of debts from which he was discharged upon his failure some years ago, on Monday next, and give his former creditors an elegant supper, at his house, into the bargain, at the same time. This sum will cover principal and interest in full.

Expences of California Emigration.

Dr. Comstock gives it as his opinion that the emigration, outfit and labor of 20,000 emigrants to California will cost the United States \$23,260,000, which sum must be received in return for expenditure before the profits can commence.—*Ex.*

[Well, we don't see into the Doctor's method of calculation. The whole cost for emigrants to California is simply the time lost in going there]

The Ancient Britons.

In a lecture at Aberdare, the Rev. J. Griffiths has declared it a fact, that the Welsh language has been preserved so pure that the Briton of the time of Julius Cæsar might converse with ease with the Welshman of 1849.

The Cotton Crop.

The cotton planting in the South has been very backward, owing to the first seed having been destroyed by frosts in a number of places.

Largest Steamboat in the World.

The new steamboat New World to run on the North River, owned by Isaac Newton, Esq. is 382 feet long and 37 feet breadth of beam. Her wheels are 46 feet in diameter; the engine 76 inches, with 15 feet stroke.

Tobacco and Mortality.

At the last meeting of the Academie des Sciences, Paris, a paper was brought forward by M. Carboneau, upon the effects of tobacco on the workmen employed to make cigars and prepare tobacco. It would appear that out of 420 females whose husbands followed that occupation, 356 had twins; but with regard to health, out of 1,000 workmen, 340 became emaciated to the highest degree, and 64 in a secondary manner.

A writer in the Dundee Courier proposes that the seed-potatoes be cut from end to end planted in drills a yard apart, and when the tubers begin to form, the drills be filled up on one side, and thus will not conduct water to the roots.

The Mineral Point Tribune announces the discovery of an extensive quarry of beautiful marble, near the Wisconsin River. Also the discovery of a new and valuable vein of copper in the same vicinity.

Wisconsin has an area of 34,511,360 acres, and a population not exceeding 300,000 persons, thus making it manifest that she has room for a few more yet.

Mr. E. G. Squier, U. S. Charge to New Grenada, has been elected an honorary member of the London Archeological Association.

From a recent exhibit of the "Methodist Book Concern," in this City, its assets appear to be \$643,217,60, while its liabilities amount to \$8,403,94 only. The profits of the concern are annually divided among the several conferences.

There was built in Maine in the year ending June 30, 1848, four hundred and twenty eight ships, barques and brigs, in the aggregate amounting to nearly 90,000 tons.

The chief use of a bachelor, according to the Baltimore American, is to count one in the census.

The railroad of the New York and Erie line was opened from Binghamton to Oswego on the 1st inst.

Of 1,598 vessels built in the 1846-7, the greatest amount of tonnage (63,549 tons) was built in the State of Maine. Only 37,591 tons were built in this State, on the seaboard.

The number of buildings destroyed by fire at St. Louis was 418, not including premises of little value.

By the last news from Europe there was every evidence of a good crop both of potatoes and grain for 1849.

The steamer "Fashion" recently made the trip between Kingston and Montreal in less than 12 hours.

The Artesian Well at Charleston, S. C., had on Saturday last reached a depth of 835 feet, but the stratum of marl has not yet been penetrated.