

**Medical.**

**SALT.**—We do not know but salt, (chloride of sodium) will soon become as famous for cures among our physicians, as it is among old salts (sailors), who apply it to cure a wonderful number of the ills of this life. The following is what the "Charleston Medical Journal and Review" says about it as a substitute for the sulphate of quinine in intermittent fever:—

"Our readers doubtless remember that this substance was proposed some time ago by Dr. Piorry, of Paris, as a remedy in intermittent fever, in evidence of the utility of which, numerous cases were adduced by him. He administers it in doses of two table-spoonful once or twice daily, and asserts that it not only promptly arrests the paroxysms, but also exerts on the spleen as marked an influence as quinine doses.

Professor Herrick, of the Rush Medical College, has also reported in the September number of the N. W. Medical and Surgical Journal, the results of several trials made with it, which go to corroborate the success obtained by M. Piorry. Prof. Herrick suggests that it acts by preventing the destruction of the blood globules, (which takes place to a considerable extent in this disease), and at the same time by furnishing the materials for the manufacture of a fresh supply of this constituent. Chloride of sodium is known to possess the property of preserving the blood globules; it is an alterative and tonic, and is also claimed to possess a specific influence in arresting the exacerbations of intermittents.

He prescribes it in the dose of three to four drachms twice daily in mucilage. After the fever is checked he gives it in smaller doses, say ten grains, with the same quantity of *corb. ferri*, twice or three times daily, as a tonic or corrective of the secretions of the alimentary tube."

**SALT AS A LAXATIVE.**—Here is what the "Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery" says about common salt as a useful and mild laxative:—

Without any experience in regard to the febrifuge powers of the chloride of sodium, we can speak with great confidence of its efficacy, in habitual constipation. Of all the laxatives we have ever tried, we have found this to act most pleasantly, uniformly, and naturally. Where the only object is to dislodge the contents of the bowels, it is all that physician or patient could desire. Dyspeptics, sedentary persons, the subjects of hemorrhoids, all, in a word, who are troubled with costiveness, will find the remedy a mild and sure ephratic, emptying the bowels freely without nausea, irritation, or exhaustion.—We direct it to be taken before breakfast, from two to three drachms, dissolved in two or three tumblers of cold water. The same dose continues to act from year to year, without diminution of effect.

**ITCH CURED IN THREE HOURS.**—Dr. Hardy, who has charge of one of the hospitals of Paris, has succeeded in curing the itch in three hours. His method of treatment is as follows:—

The patient is first put into a warm bath and rubbed for one hour with yellow soap. He then passes into a clean bath, where for another hour he continues to cleanse his skin. After this he is taken to a particular room and rubbed over for half an hour with an ointment made up of lard 8 parts, fine sulphur 2 parts, carbonate of potash 1 part, by weight. After this the patient is sent away cured.

**A SUBSTITUTE FOR MERCURY IN SYPHILITIC DISEASES.**—M. E. Robin has read a paper before the Academy, of Sciences of Paris, with the following title:—"On Certain new Agents calculated as Substitutes for Mercury when used as an Anti-Syphilitic Remedy." In former papers, M. Robin has maintained these propositions:—"Mercurial preparations do not act in a peculiar manner when administered in syphilitic diseases; they merely combine with virus and change it into a new or inert compound. Now there are a great many substances which form analogous combinations with organized matter, which substances probably have, like mercury, anti-syphilitic virtues; and it will be found that the agents of this class, which have thus been successfully employed, belong to the antiseptic division of remedies, which act by combi-

ning with the noxious principles. In this manner we can understand whence arise the anti-syphilitic properties of arsenical, gold, silver, steel, and antimonial preparations. Hence arises the likelihood of success, if attempts be made to use such organic substances as the bichromate of potash, or sesquichloride of iron, instead of mercurials."

**PHOSPHATE OF LIME.**—Dr. Warren Stone thus speaks of his experience in the use of phosphate of lime in an article in the New Orleans Monthly Register:—

"My experience is, that the cod liver oil is much better tolerated by the stomach when taken with the phosphate of lime; and I feel confident that it is better appropriated. It is well understood that cod liver oil, to be useful, must be digested and furnish to the blood certain essential principles known to be deficient in phthisical cases. The phosphate of lime undoubtedly corrects the acidity, and experience goes strongly to favor the theory of Beneke, that it assists in the formation of healthy nuclei, capable of development into cells. When the oil is not tolerated, great benefit is derived from the use of the lime in connection with nitrogenous diet, or animal oil, in the form of diet. Several cases have been reported to me, where the good effects of the cod liver oil were not manifest until the lime was added. In urging strongly the use of the lime in connection with cod liver oil and animal oil, I do not wish to be understood as undervaluing other agents, which the various conditions of the fluids and nervous system often require. In this section, and in the whole valley of the Mississippi, there is a tendency to intermittents, engorgement of the spleen, and consequent deficiency of coloring matter in the blood, in which the preparations of iron are highly useful. The carbonate of iron, prussiate of iron, iodide of iron, and in decidedly intermittent cases, the citrate of quinine and iron, are highly useful. Exercise, particularly such as is calculated to increase the capacity of the chest, and favor free decarbonization of the blood, should not be overlooked. The chief difficulty in private practice, in the use of the main remedies in phthisis, is in the want of confidence, and consequently, perseverance in their use. The patient derives temporary relief from some one of the thousand quack specifics, which merely disguise symptoms, but have no curative virtues. But few can comprehend that a transformation of tissues, dependent upon vice of nutrition, can only be overcome by long perseverance in a course calculated to correct it. Cod liver oil was used—and with a confidence equal to any modern physician—seventy-five years ago; but it went into disuse, probably from ignorance of its action, and consequently want of confidence in its use. The effect of the phosphate of lime in aid of the proper appropriation of the nutriment, is now manifest in certain cases of marasmus, not dependent upon organic disease, but equally destructive. The food, at times, appears to be digested, and by the use of gentle means, stayed upon the bowels; but nutrition does not go on; there is no appropriation of food. In such cases, I have seen the lime, in conjunction with animal juices, and even with animal fat, produce the most happy effects. I will not pretend that the theory of the action of the lime is entirely correct, but I am sure I am not mistaken in its effects in favoring the healthy appropriation of nutriment, and even in favoring digestion."

**American Ingenuity.**

An English paper publishes a series of lectures on American ingenuity recently delivered in England by a Captain McKinnon, of the British Navy. The following is an extract:—"He thought there was something original in the American mind, and that as far as invention went, they were the first in the world. This was to be attributed to various causes, and they were more inventive than the English for the following reasons:—If a man invented any thing in this country, he was looked upon as a projector, and his efforts did not meet with encouragement; but there, if he invented anything, ever so little, he was considered a great man, taken in hand by influential men, and made a fortune. He knew several who had amassed large sums; from £1,000 to £20,000. He should like to see an

Englishman do that—he would be laughed at if he expected it, (Applause). The first invention he could speak of, was one that amused him very much. He saw a large ship which was coming to Europe with wheat, and alongside was a very curious thing, like a mud machine, and several barges full of grain. He was very much astonished, and went on board to examine the machine, which he found to be a grain elevator, which was intended to pump the grain from the barges into the big ship. He at first laughed at it, and thought it a Yankee invention and a fib, but when he got on board, he found that it pumped the grain at such an awful pace, that it almost drowned him before he got up the hatchway. (Laughter and applause). He found it delivered 20,000 bushels per hour. 'Suppose,' said the speaker, pointing to the ceiling, 'there was a great hole up there, it would send the grain in at such an awful pace, that we shouldn't all get out—for we should be drowned, quite half of us.' (Great laughter.)

"The next thing that struck him as an ingenious matter, was at Cincinnati, where the hogs killed in the Western States last year for exportation were 953,000. There was a man there who had discovered a method of making gas out of hog's lard. (Great Laughter). It seemed a funny thing, but it was a fact. The Mayor of Milwaukee city, in Wisconsin, who was a great friend of his, actually told him that he was making a bargain with the man to light the town with gas out of hog's lard. He certainly did not live there long enough to see it himself, but he was told it was true, and he believed it. (Cheers).—Another invention was a zinc paint, which he described as being most beautiful and worth a trial by all present. Another very ingenious thing he had witnessed at the Patent Office in Washington. It was pointed out to him by a gentleman, but he could not describe it. It had a large handle to it, and he asked what it was, when he said it was a sewing machine, (great laughter), which could make seventeen pairs of pantaloons a day, but it was then out of order and would not work, and he did not see it himself, and he could not, therefore, vouch for its accuracy, but he believed it to be true.

Another invention was made by a man who had a large dairy, containing upwards of one hundred cows, and finding it very expensive to get them milked, he set his wits to work, and, by Jove! he invented a milking machine. India rubber, gutta percha, and springs, he milked them all out, as dry as possible.—(Much laughter). The captain amused his audience by relating the effects of the milking machine upon the cows, and declared that the down East Yankees were the most inventive people possible, and were monstrously clever fellows. They had a good story there which was too good to be lost, and it was an astonishing matter. The yankee babies when not eating or sleeping, were still doing something, and this was what they were thinking about—the Yankee asserted that the baby was rolling its eyes round and thinking how to improve the cradle. (Uncontrollable laughter). He thought that was sufficient of Yankee ingenuity for the present, but he would give them more specimens by-and-bye.—(Laughter)."

**Improvements of the Hudson River.**

We learn by the Albany Knickerbocker that Mons. Maillefert is up at Castleton surveying the river bottom, for the purpose of removing the bar at that place. If the city of Albany would invest as much in improving the river below that city for some miles, as it has done in railroads, it would derive more direct benefit for the outlay. But the improving spirit which was pursued in that city a few years ago by excavating mud out of one part of the river, and dumping it in another, must yield to more enlightened and watchful measures before any real good can be effected. There is as much water in the Hudson at Albany, at all seasons of the year, as would float a 74 gun ship, and the river can easily be improved to do this; Mr. McAlpine, the State Engineer knows how it can be done, but it would not be safe to undertake the task with those excavating machines now used; they are excellent ground hogs, but poor excava-

tors. Mons. Maillefert, we suppose, will adopt the same means to remove any concrete shoal which may be found at Castleton or the old overslaw, as have been successfully adopted in removing the hard beds in the Thames, viz., the same as that adopted by M. Maillefert in removing the obstructions in the East River, New York.

**A Terror to Milk Dealers.**

A Londoner has invented an ingenious little instrument for testing the purity of milk, which is said to be simple, portable, cheap, and certain. The tester has only to be dipped into the milk and its exact richness (or poverty) is ascertained by the rise or fall of the "bob." It is thought that if the tester comes into general use, the quality of London milk will undergo a decided improvement, as every one will be able at once to detect the undue admixture of chalk and water. If the milk-tester is what it is said to be, we should probably soon hear of it on this side of the water, and our milk-men should take warning in time.—[Home Journal.

[What is there new about this, we should like to know? The lactometer, for testing the strength of milk is old and well known. How some editors are gulled with things they know nothing about—these ingenious little instruments which this Londoner has invented can be purchased at any of our philosophical instrument-makers' stores.

**Ten Hour Law in Ohio.**

The Legislature of Ohio has passed a "Ten Hour Law." It provides that in all manufacturing, workshops, &c., where children under 18 years of age and women are employed, their hours of labor shall not exceed ten hours per day. Any foreman who compels persons to violate the ten hour rule, shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$5, and not over \$50. The second section of the Bill says:—

"That in all engagements to labor in mechanical or manufacturing business, a day's work, when the contract of labor is silent upon the subject, or where there is no express contract, shall consist of ten hours; and all agreements, contracts, or engagements, in reference to such labor, shall be so constructed."

The fines are to go to the school fund. It is our opinion that such laws are wise and good, and should, as far as practicable, be generally adopted.

**Important Invention.**

The Washington Telegraph States that "Mr. De Bibery has invented one of the most important life-saving and swimming apparatuses we have ever seen. Application has been made by Mr. De B. for a patent. It is a kind of frock or doublet, interlaid with small metallic boxes, inflated. This doublet may be worn as an over-all on shipboard, and it is impossible for the wearer to sink below the shoulders, and Mr. De B. asserts that a person may remain in the water any length of time, and the water has no effect whatever on the buoyancy of the dress."

[We see nothing new about this except the metal boxes, which, in our opinion, are rather a defect than an advantage.

**The Engineers' Strike.**

By the last news from Europe, many hundreds of the Engineers of England who had been out on strike, had gone to work, and the employers compelled them to sign an agreement that they would "have nothing to do with their Trades Association." The employers have not conceded any thing. The majority of the engineers, however, still hold out. A great meeting of the trades had been held at St. Martin's Hall, London, in order to consider this great question.

It was resolved that all the trades should be appealed to in aid of the operative engineers, and that a petition should be presented to the House of Commons, praying for inquiry into the conduct of employers, and for such steps as may be necessary to secure to the working classes the right of union granted by act of Parliament. Such a petition would bring the merits of this strike fully before the public, and no doubt elicit sympathy and subscriptions for the operatives, but Parliament will not probably be able to discuss the subject this session.