

amidst a mountain of chaff; *we* cannot; but we can "criticise" him!

It has been my good fortune to make a new application of the chloride of Barium and Neumann's observation was chiefly my guide thereto.

On the 5th of July, 1890, Mrs. B. consulted me concerning her daughter, who has been affected with chorea for the past four months. She was taken from school early in March, and since then has been in the hands of a Homœopathic physician, but has steadily grown worse.

She was taken from school at first because of the failure of her memory; she could not learn her lessons, though she had formerly been a bright scholar. Soon her mother observed a curious "fidgetiness" in her legs; they were suddenly "poked out" in this way and that. Then the arms became affected, and the doctor was called.

The girl is eleven years of age, rather short in stature, and spare in flesh; having black eyes, dark hair, and sallow complexion, looking like dirty white wax. She had not been a sickly child, and no cause is known for the present attack.

Her arms and legs are in constant jactitation. She cannot feed herself, and can walk only with the assistance of another. Her face is spasmodically twitched, and her speech is unintelligible to all but her mother. All the spasmodic movements cease during sleep.

Her appetite is unimpaired; but her bowels are constipated, and she has frequent urination. It was impossible to take her pulse correctly; but her heart evinced nothing abnormal in frequency, force, rhythm or sounds.

The expression of her face was absolutely idiotic; her jaw dropped, saliva drooled from the corners of her mouth, her eyes lacked lustre, and she had a vacant look, or gave you a silly grin.

The choreic jerking began in her legs, then appeared in her arms; but the legs have always been the worse. Her speech was affected before the twitching began in the face.

None of the other children in the family have ever been similarly affected.

This case reminded me vividly of the pathogenetic effects of the chloride when given for the hypertrophied tonsils, and after brief deliberation I administered Baryta mur. 4th cent., a saturated two-grain tablet every two hours, and asked to see the patient again in two days. I did not so much expect any marked change, but was on my guard against any over action of the drug.

July 7th. Mrs. B. brought the girl and reported that she thought the jerkings had been worse. Continued the remedy and potency, but ordered a tablet every four hours.

July 12th. Called at the house. My note-book says: "Better on the 12th, especially in the feet; quieter there." Continued the remedy, potency and dose.

July 25th. The mother reported satisfactory improvement; "we all can see it." Continue without change.

August 6th. The child could not be recognized as the drivelling thing first seen a month before. Her legs are quiet, speech is distinct; no twitching of the face, and but little of the arms. As I was going away for a month, gave a large bottle of saturated tablets, and ordered four a day.

At this date the child is back in school, and is holding her accustomed place in her classes.

To-day I am wondering why Neumann's observation had not sooner led to the employment of the Barium salts in chorea. That this disease affects the mind of the patient in this peculiar manner has long been known, and I do not know of any drug that produces the *Similimum* so unmistakably as the remedy under consideration.

This is very plain to me now; but I had had the *Materia Medica* in my hands for thirty years before I saw it! And then it is revealed by the only therapeutic law that can make a poisoning fruitful. To Neumann this pathogenetic effect of the chloride of Barium only voiced a *caveat*; to the follower of Hahnemann it reveals the application of the poison as a REMEDY.

Ann Arbor, December 6th, 1890.

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#### ERYTHROXYLON COCA AND SOME OF ITS CLINICAL THERAPEUTIC USES.

CASE I.—A young man of about 20 consulted me in November, 1884. The disease he complained of was palpitation of the heart, with difficulty of breathing which was generally and principally felt in empty stomach, especially while ascending any height. From a study of the history of the case, I was led to the conclusion that this young man was a victim to the *vicious* and *ruinous* practice of "self-abuse" from the age of 14, and which he did not give up yet. On an investigation of his case, I gathered that he had much cerebral excitement; while sitting alone, he had wild fancies; being a student, he had more liking for



mental than physical work; now and then he felt much mental depression, he apprehended evils which were not likely to befall him; his temper had become very irritable; but immediately after he lost his temper, he repented for it, and became morose. He complained of vertigo, headache, with pressive and tensive pain in the temples, and occasionally pressive pain in the occiput, also much pressive pain in the eyes, with photophobia and dilated pupils. Slight noise or sound agitated him and brought about palpitation of the heart, with weakness and acceleration of the pulse. Although he had become lean, thin and weak, yet he worked hard without any feeling of fatigue and did not feel the least necessity for food. He had much flatulence and rumbling in the abdomen. His memory was much impaired with regard to other things, but not with regard to studies, so that he could repeat *by heart* even pages of the books which he had gone through even *once*. His bowels remained generally constipated. He passed very large quantities of urine day and night, with much thirst; but whether there was any sugar in the urine I cannot say, because I did not make a chemical examination of his urine. His penis had become quite relaxed and he had nocturnal seminal emissions, with lascivious dreams almost every night. He did not sleep well even for nights together. Very frequently he had spasms in his calves during sleep or while rising from his seat or stretching his limbs.

On inquiry I learned that he had so-called *nervine-tonics* from his Allopathic physicians, and Nux. Vom. 30. and 200., Phosphorous 6. and 30., Ac. Phosphoric 6. and 30., Anacardium 12. and 30., Lycopodium 12. and 30., China 6. and 30. and Coffea 6. from his Homœopathic medical advisers. This way he swallowed Allopathic and Homœopathic medicines, as it were, by the ounce, for two years or so. He said that whenever he took any given medicine, he felt some relief for a week or ten days, and then he felt unwell again as before. On the 28th of November, 1884, I prescribed Ac. Phosphoric 1x, in one-drop doses, twice daily for a week. On the 6th of December, he saw me again, and said that he was much better. I stopped the medicine for a week. He saw me again on the 13th of December and said he was better still. That day also I gave him no medicine, but asked him to see me again after a week. He saw me again on the 22d of December, and told me that he was just the same as when he saw me last. He felt no other pain and uneasiness than *palpitation of the heart and difficulty of breathing while ascending any height*. He also felt very weak, but he felt no hunger nor any appetite for any kind of food, and yet any kind

of hard, bodily or mental work was agreeable to him. He had no seminal emissions at night, nor any lascivious dreams, but he was getting leaner and thinner daily. I was in great difficulty for finding out a suitable remedy for this patient. Accidentally, however, I remembered a case of Lencorrhœa, with most of the symptoms above enumerated, which was very successfully treated by Dr. C. T. Charles, late Professor of Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children in the Calcutta Medical College, in the person of a *Mârwâri lady* at Barabázâre, some years ago with *Coca-wine*, as also what was said to us about the efficacy of the drug by him while lecturing in the class-room, in removing the exhaustion after tedious labor, and remembering the great power which Coca has of removing the feeling of fatigue in ascending hills when its leaves are chewed by the hill-men for the purpose of overcoming the feeling of hunger, I was tempted to prescribe Coca in this young man's case. I referred to our Materia Medica and found that almost all the so-called pathogenetic symptoms of Coca were present in this young man's case. Accordingly I prescribed Coca 1x, in one-drop doses, three doses daily for a week. On the eighth day, the patient came to me and said that the complaints he had had all disappeared, but he felt so very weak that he was not at all disposed to stir out a single step from his bed or seat or do any kind of work, either bodily or mental. I stopped the medicine for a week and prescribed generous diet consisting of home-made bread, meat and some fried vegetables in the morning, and bread, some vegetables and milk at night, and asked the patient to see me after a week. Accordingly he saw me on the 16th of January, 1885, when he said he felt stronger, but the former symptoms had reappeared. I prescribed Coca 1x again for a week as before and all the symptoms disappeared, but the patient again felt weak and quite disinclined to any kind of bodily or mental work. I stopped the medicine, prescribing only the same diet as before. On the 23d of January he saw me again, and said that he was positively worse, and that if this state of things continued for a week, he "would die." I did not now see my way to finding out suitable means for giving relief to this suffering poor young man. On referring to our Materia Medica, I could not hit at a better medicine than *Coca* and yet *Coca* had done the patient little or no good. Considering all sides of the question, I thought of giving up the case as hopeless and asked the patient to consult some other physician. He said he would not change my treatment for more reasons than one "whether he died or lived," especially because he had left no physician of Calcutta of repute



and standing (Allopathic and Homœopathic alike) untried, and that he consulted me at his father's advice who had directed him to stick to my treatment for at least six months. Such being the case, my responsibility in this case doubly increased, and I did not know as to what should be done. After much deliberation, I came to the conclusion that Coca might be the right remedy, but that its dose had to be changed. Accordingly I prescribed Coca 6x, three doses daily, for a week. On the 2d of February he saw me again, and told me that he felt neither better nor worse. I believe that any disease remaining stationary, without being better or worse, indicates a favorable sign. I again prescribed Coca 6x in the same way as before for a week after which the patient saw me again, and said that he was again *positively worse*, and that the symptoms which had been present at the time when he had first consulted me had all reappeared in a more violent form. This statement of my patient put me out of my wits. I prescribed no medicine, but advised him to take the kind of food which I had prescribed for him before. On the 18th of February, I prescribed Coca  $\theta$ , in one-drop doses, three doses daily. On the second day the patient felt better. On the third day he felt better still. On the seventh day he felt quite well. On the eighth day he saw me. I advised him to take a dose of Coca  $\theta$ , every night at bed time for a week; after which he saw me again, and said that he felt quite well; he felt appetite; he felt stronger than before; he ate well; he had sound sleep at night; he had no nocturnal seminal emissions, nor any lascivious dreams. The quantity of his urine became normal. I prescribed Coca  $\theta$  again, a dose every other day for two weeks, after which he saw me again, and told me that he had nothing to complain of. Since then he has been doing well. He has been serving as an assistant in a mercantile firm here, and doing his work regularly till April, 1888, when I left Calcutta for a change. I was away from Calcutta for a year and a half. I did not see him till last week when he saw me. He looked so very healthy that when I saw him this time, I could not persuade myself to believe that this was the same young man whom I had treated about four years ago. He said that the last medicine which I had given him, namely, Coca  $\theta$ , had *acted like a charm* in his case. R. K. GHOSH, M. D., Calcutta.

[Owing to the great pressure we have been compelled to hold the remainder of Dr. Ghosh's paper over until next number.—  
ED. RECORDER.]

#### PRACTICAL POINTS OF PRACTICE FROM THE TRANSACTIONS OF 1890.

Skipping the first one hundred and sixty pages, of Reports, etc., of the Transactions of the American Institute of Homœopathy, for 1890, (a very handsome volume), a paper is reached, by Sarah N. Smith, M.D., of New York City, on "Experience with *Kali Phos.*," which, with the discussion, contains some good hints.

##### Kali Phos.

The first case reported by Dr. Smith was a miss, aged 13, with "general weakness, with loss of appetite, frequent epistaxis and her mother adds so nervous and irritable." *Pulsatilla* was given; in a week menses appeared and patient was better in some respects but still presented languor, weakness, heart-beating that tired her out, school and study a burden, low spirited, pale and sallow; *Kali Phos.* cured. The next case was a woman of 50 who complained of inability to be on her feet, depressed in spirits feeling certain that she would never be any better; she could scarcely raise her feet, cramps in calves at night with toes drawing up, and generally uneasy; a part, six inches in width, just above the ankle, was destitute of feeling. *Zincum*, 5m, seemed to improve her but the old depression and discouragement returned and she was sad and worried. *Kali Phos.* 30th, improved her at once in every way and "to-day she is bright and cheerful, able to attend to her family duties, with satisfaction and pleasure. Much of her trouble was doubtless caused by local trouble, as I found the os-uteri resting on the spinal column, causing great irritation."

The next patient was a widow of 40. "I found anteflexion of uterus, with cervix-uteri resting on the spinal column, but nothing serious in the condition to warrant the very peculiar, nervous condition in the patient. She was very solicitous as to her future health, weak, exhausted with slight effort; said she was thoroughly discouraged, and had no heart to doctor. She told me that she was irritable and easily displeased, which was unnatural for her." *Kali phos.* soon changed her to a "bright and jolly" woman. The next case was that of a young man who said "that he was weak and good for nothing; all broken up; nervous." *Silica* seemed to improve him, and *Pepo* brought a thirty-foot tape worm. "I thought this would complete the cure, but not so. His stomach began to improve at once, but he felt that he was far from well. I was disappointed and quite at a loss to



know what to give him." *Kali phos.* soon caused the world to look bright to him once more.

In the discussion following the reading of this paper, Dr. A. L. Monroe, of Louisville, said: "I have had considerable experience with *Kali phos.* for the past year; in fact, such an experience that I buy it by the pound, and a pound does not last very long. About nine or ten months ago I had a case of typhoid fever in a young gentleman who had a very large active brain, had speculated in real estate, and his work had been very active, trying work. After the first week or two he became so hysterical that he would cry like a child, and sob whenever he got nervous." No remedy availed until *Kali phos.* was given, which corresponded to the state and cured, nothing else being given afterwards.

Dr. T. G. Comstock said that he had used *Kali phos.* "frequently in cases of debility, low spirits, melancholia, anæmic conditions and cases of low forms of nervous troubles.

In fact *Kali phos.* seems to correspond to that form of nervous break down which is increasing among the American people, else the advertising medical fakirs would not find it profitable to spend the amount of money they are spending in advertising medicines said to cure cases, which, in general, as they picture them, resemble those outlined above.

#### A Comparison.

In Dr. Lilienthal's paper on the "Differential Diagnosis of the Phosphates" is found a paragraph summing up the whole subject which is especially interesting in connection with the foregoing. "In a few words the keynote to these four remedies may be given. We meet in *Kali phosphoricum*, adynamia and decay, a cry for better blood and more vitality; while in *Magnesia phosphorica* an exuberance of vitality seems to prevail; it is a purely anti-spasmodic remedy, while all the functions of life are in their normal conditions. *Calarea phosphorica* is one of the representatives of psora, as far as development is concerned, and we meet, therefore, defects of evolution and also threatening signs of involution. In *Natrum phosphoricum* the chyloportic system is deranged and acidity the hint to its use; hence, a too-much neglected remedy in that American dyspepsia, when it will often rival *nux vomica* and other indicated remedies in its beneficent results." *Kali phos.*: *A cry for better blood and more vitality!*

#### Dr. Hale's Paper.

At the meeting of the Institute in 1889 Dr. Hale selected as his subject the Cactaceæ and sent out a circular letter which was

published in all the Homœopathic journals. In the paper read at this meeting, which is of a general nature not lending itself to condensation, the Doctor says "I regret to say that I have received but a single response to my solicitation." In discussing the paper Dr. H. C. Allen said in reference to this: "Dr. Hale refers to the apathy which met him almost universally in his efforts to engage the attention and interest of the profession. If we only consider that for a moment it would not seem wonderful at all. It is a continual hobby horse with our authors and journals for the last few years, how to get rid of our *Materia Medica*; in other words how to get rid of the symptoms. The complaint is: 'We have too many symptoms; we can't use them; we are piling up symptom after symptom without being able to utilize them.' The younger member read this and it is not to be wondered at that there is apathy in provers. Now, for one, I have never found too many symptoms in our *Materia Medica*; I wish we had more. I do not commit the *Materia Medica* to memory, neither do I intend to so do. I do not desire to memorize Webster's or Worcester's Dictionary: I use them as works of reference."

#### Among the Children.

Dr. Millie J. Chapman, of Pittsburgh, reported a case of chorea in a six-year-old feeble-minded child. "To feed an acrobat while displaying his skill, would have been easy compared to giving John a meal. The moans, growls and piercing shrieks he uttered at times made him an undesirable inmate of any house." An undesirable in the superlative degree, one would think, when in addition to foregoing the action of his bowels and bladder were "involuntary." Luckily for John, he finally got into the Pittsburgh Homœopathic Hospital, where, other remedies failing, *Bufo ran.* in six months improved him so far that he could feed himself, walk and talk, and was free from convulsions. "He was then removed to another home, where he has had a continuance of health with great awakening and development of mental faculties."

Another case by Dr. Chapman was a five-months-old boy, a victim of artificial food and heroic treatment for marasmus; finally, an Allopathic pillar diagnosed diabetes, and prognosed a fatal termination. Then the parents called in Homœopathy. When rational medicine took charge of the case "The prominent symptoms were emaciation, pale face, eyes sunken, lustreless, difficult breathing, abdomen hard, painful to touch, urine profuse, ammoniacal, dry cold skin; gave evidence of pain and nausea after taking food." *Iodine* was prescribed, and in twenty-



one hour there was improvement, and in twenty-one days a healthy boy.

#### Gynæcology.

In his paper, the Chairman, Dr. S. P. Hedges, of Chicago, said (among other things): "Allow me at this portion of my paper to ask a practical question. After diagnosis—what? Why, a prescription and treatment, of course! We must not stop with tonics, lotions and local measures of the old school. We can do more; we are expected to do more. Our law of cure must be studied and applied. If we are early in finding what is the trouble, long before local means are called for or tonics needed, our affiliated similar has begun to do its work. Quietly and deeply, in the remote recesses where the morbid process is disturbing nature's harmony, nature's remedy rapidly works. Thus the cure is begun, and nature is aided in recovering her normal health. You see we, as Homœopathic gynæcologists, need more study upon our *Materia Medica*."

Dr. J. W. Sweeter, of Chicago, read a paper, "A Plea for Early Interference in Malignant Uterine Disease." In conclusion, he said, "I am willing to venture my reputation on the statement that the early life of uterine carcinoma is *entirely local*, and that it can be eradicated by local methods."

In the discussion, Dr. George W. Bowen said that he had treated thirty-four cases of cancer, and lost but two of them, and he believed cancer could be cured by the use of *Arsenic*; he gave it in doses sometimes as large as one-quarter of a grain in twenty-four hours; nine-tenths of all the cases of cancer, no matter into what condition they may have gotten, are curable by *Arsenic*."

Dr. Wm. Owens said that "*Acetic Acid* is the only drug that its provings developed the typical cancer cell. That proving was made by an Allopathic physician, and was published in Bennett's *Physiology*." He had never used the knife in cases of cancer, but had always used *Acetic Acid*, and had cured some cases thereby. "By the knife no cases are cured."

#### Microbes.

The paper by Dr. Wm. Owens, Sr., of Cincinnati, O., on "The Relation of the Microbe to the Morbid Process," summed up thus: "It follows as a final conclusion that the presence of the microbe is no essential to the existence of any form of disease, and that all microbes, bacteria, bacilli, micrococci, etc., are secondary to or, possibly products of, previously existing conditions, and are not in any way the cause of them."

#### Eyes.

Dr. E. W. Beebe's paper contains a few very cheering paragraphs. "Experimental methods based upon pathology are unable to meet the peculiarities of these cases, hence the failures of our friends of the dominant school; for, unlike many diseases which have a tendency to recover without the aid of medicines, this, in the great majority of cases, steadily progresses with greater or less rapidity until blindness obtains." But when aid is sought in Homœopathy, "Surprising results frequently follow the administration of the indicated remedy in incipient cataract, and the improvement thus obtained is quite as permanent as that experienced in other chronic affections."

In the discussion, Dr. J. A. Campbell, of St. Louis, Mo., made the assertion that nine-tenths of the cases in Dr. Burnett's *Curability of Cataract* "were not cataracts at all," and he questioned very much whether opaque fibres can be restored. [For one bad case cured, the reader is referred to September, 1890, RECORDER, p. 235.]

#### Stammering.

Dr. H. E. Spaulding, during a discussion on this topic, reported having cured a case of stammering with *Agaricus*  $\text{rx}$ , and having treated several cases with good results with medicines only, *Agaricus* being the main remedy. Dr. G. W. Bowen also believed in treating stammering medicinally, and had used *Belladonna*, *Ignatia*, and *Stramonium* with success. Dr. Blake's paper said that a neglected and foul state of the preputium and phymosis with adhesions would be revealed in many stammerers, even of the better classes.

#### Nervous Derangements.

Dr. W. D. Gentry's paper on "Nervous Derangements Produced by Sexual Irregularities in Boys" is one of very great interest. The numerous cures reported are really surprising, and ought to awaken attention. One was a deformed boy, one leg and arm shorter than the other, who had been treated by the doctors for St. Vitus' dance. Examination showed the prepuce adhering to the gland. This was cut away, and in two years the boy's limbs were of equal length, and his health completely restored. Another boy, seven years epileptic, dwarfish and with an "old man" look; same cause; same treatment cured. Another child, two years and a half old, deaf, dumb and blind; phimosi; same treatment, and in six months it could see, hear and speak. So through ten cases of the same, the halt and the blind; all cured by the same general treatment. "When a phy-



sician" concludes, Dr. Gentry "is called upon to treat a boy or young man suffering with any of the following conditions—stunted growth; unhealthy, 'old man' look; nervous derangement of any kind, such as incontinence of urine, sleeplessness, chorea, spasmodic neuralgia, neurasthenia, or nervous prostration, recurring convulsions, epilepsy, defective articulation, squinting, jactitations, paralysis, locomotor ataxy, inco-ordination, and similar troubles, he should look towards the generative organs as the seat of the trouble, which by reflex action produces the effect. Either phimosis, adhesion of the prepuce to the glans-penis, or irritation of the parts, will result in producing any of the above-mentioned, besides other nervous, physical or mental derangements, because the genitals of either male or female are the centres of the nervous system, and any diseased condition there will nearly always result in some nervous, physical or mental affliction."

#### Cancer of the Stomach.

Dr. H. P. Holmes, of Sycamore, Ill., reported a case of "Scirrhus Carcinoma of the Stomach." After treating the patient for some time, he concluded he was suffering from cancer. In time the patient went to a Sanitarium where they told him the trouble was "nervous dyspepsia." Later a Chicago physician diagnosed "hepatic sclerosis with atrophy." Again he was told that it was "Cirrhosis of the liver." Another Sanitarium vaguely hinted at "an obstruction of the duodenum. After post-mortem, "the mystery was solved by the immediate exposure of a large scirrhus carcinoma of the lower two-thirds of the stomach." Of diet: "The greatest benefit was derived from unfermented grape juice throughout the period of his sickness. \* \* \* The quality of the preparation was found to be an essential feature as much of the so-called 'unfermented grape juice' on the market is an outrage to its name."

#### Rapid Mention.

A case of Hay fever, by Dr. H. C. Allen. Psoric subject, aged 76, long standing, a Homœopathic physician. *Psorinum* gave great relief; almost well.

Dr. George E. Gorham reported a case of acute gastric ulcer. *Uranium nit.*, 2x trit., cured.

Of consumption, Dr. E. W. Beebe, said: "Were I restricted to one course of treatment for this malady, it should be abundant exercise in the open air, carried to a degree to make rest feel grateful at night-fall; but never to an extent that would exhaust the patient or induce copious perspiration."

Dr. George B. Peck said: "Henry N. Guernsey's text-book is unquestionably the basis of most of our obstetric medication. This is not singular, for to rare acquaintance with *Materia Medica* he added unusual experience as an accoucheur."

#### DOWN PINE TREE WAY.

*The Transactions* of the Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Maine Homœopathic Medical Society is to hand. It is a more modest volume than some of its compeers, but in value will hold its own.

Article 1st is the President's address by J. M. Widden, M. D., of Portland. Here is his testimony on a very important point of national interest: "Although the Allopaths are receding from their old method of antagonism by loud words and strong language, yet it is evident that they are none the less antagonistic, and that their fight is going to be made, in this, and in every other State, by means of the single examining and licensing board with a majority representation from the Allopathic school, gaining thereby a monopoly of the right of licensure. This movement, not a very new one, is growing in energy, and is indorsed by nearly, if not quite all, the old-school societies, and has been four times approved by the American Medical Association."

Dr. M. G. Briry, of Bath, treated of "Applied *Materia Medica*." *Nabulus albus*, he finds from experience "will have good effect in cases of chronic diarrhœa, with aggravation in the morning, and immediately after breakfast; stools profuse, and sometimes feeling hot in passing. It will be found useful in those cases in which *sulphur* and *natrum-sulfuricum* seem to be indicated, but fail to cure." *Nuphar Lutea* is another remedy from which he obtained "good results in cases of morning diarrhœa in women."

Dr. C. D. Perkins, of Rockland, read a "Study of *Lac Caninum*," which, he claims, is a polychrest. No clinical experience was adduced.

Dr. W. C. Stilson, of Bucksport, gave an accidental proving of Balm of Gilead buds made by a gentleman, who, although a citizen of Maine, was fond of the wine cup—or of rum. But as the Balm of Gilead of the pharmacopœia is a product of Southern Europe and Asia, the identification is too indefinite for use.

Dr. J. C. Gannett, of Yarmouth, presented "A Critical Study



of Spigelia," based on the new system of Drs. Conrad Wesselhoeft, J. P. Sutherland, and others. From the brief discussion, it does not seem that the Maine doctors are very enthusiastic over new plan.

Dr. C. M. Foss, of Dexter, gave a paper of clinical cases: A man, aged 45, "had catarrh in the nose, and the same in the stomach; has been told that he has cancer of the stomach. Tenderness over the stomach, with sinking, gone feeling, at times reaching a state of painful anguish, sickness at stomach, all symptoms relieved by eating." *Chelidonium* 6x at once removed all symptoms, and for ten years he has been free from them. *Chelidonium* 1x and 2x also cured a case of pain in the stomach with tenderness, constipation, sinking at the stomach and then dull, heavy pain; abdomen bloated and rumbling of gas. The higher attenuation would not answer in this case. Several cases were given in which the 1000 potency gave quick relief, and the doctor pertinently says, "I presume we often change the remedy when we ought to change the potency. I have just as much faith in high as in low potencies. Each fills its place, and any physician who is so prejudiced that he will not use the high potencies, or will not use the low potencies, fails in his duty to his patients." Anent this Dr. Jefferds remarked that his experience showed nervous temperaments needed the high, and the lymphatics the low potencies.

Dr. H. C. Bradford, of Lewiston, reported a case of a lady, aged 70, "who had a tumor of a cancerous nature on the right side of her nose pretty well up between the eyes; it was about three-quarters of an inch long, half an inch wide, and extended out from the nose about half an inch. It discharged a thin somewhat offensive liquid from an abraded surface." *Arsenicum* 3x internally three times a day with the 2x trituration externally, according to Dr. Mitchell's treatment, for three months completely cured; after a twelve month there was no trace visible.

Dr. Nancy T. Williams, of Augusta, reported two cases of hypertrophy of the uterus. Several remedies were given in each case but *calcareo carb.* seemed to be the true remedy. The doctor concludes "I have had many cases of a similar nature and never has *calc. carb.* failed to do good work."

A number of other cases are reported, but are not of such a nature as to be easily summarized.

*Ignatia*.—Headache increased when smoking tobacco or taking a pinch of snuff, or from being where another is smoking.—RAUE.

### REVISION OF THE MATERIA MEDICA.

It is evident that a widespread interest is being taken in the matter of Materia Medica revision. The necessity for such revision is clear to every physician who has his attention drawn to the manner in which the provings which now form our Materia Medica have been conducted.

Every practitioner of medicine must use our present Materia Medica every time he prescribes for a patient; it is to him what a chest of tools is to a carpenter. What kind of work would a carpenter turn out if his tools were dull or if his chisel should break off every time he attempted to use it?

And so with the Materia Medica; as it is constructed now, it is not a reliable tool with which to do the curing of the sick. All physicians comprehend this although some of them dread to acknowledge it, fearing that they may lose their confidence in the Materia Medica. If, however, confidence is placed in that which is unreliable, only disastrous results will follow in the present instance; both to the well-being of the sick and the reputation as well as the peace of mind of the physician.

Much that is in the present Materia Medica of our school is truth; it is only because there is a large admixture of what is false that renders the whole unreliable. So much seems clear.

Of what does the unreliable part consist? Chiefly of symptoms recorded as having been produced by a drug, whereas they were not. Without any proper preparation for drug proving; without taking a previous "health record;" often without experience in proving; many times in a state of ill-health, persons have undertaken to "prove" drugs. Any one who chose was allowed the privilege of selecting any substance—active or inert—making a "proving," having it printed in some journal and then recorded as part of the authentic Materia Medica.

From the adoption of such a plan as this there has been a certain result *i. e.*, the incorporation of many symptoms in our Materia Medica that were not caused by the drugs to which they are credited. And the proportions which these false symptoms bear to the true is the proportion of unreliability of the present Materia Medica.

This is the dark side of the picture, but there is a brighter side—a side on which the sun of progress is now shining. In order to see it, we must observe the efforts now being undertaken in the line of Materia Medica revision, by means of which there is a fair prospect of separating the wheat from the chaff—