

## PERSONAL.

Cleveland University of Medicine and Surgery is welcomed to the RECORDER'S advertising constituency; see inside of last cover.

Dr. B. F. Underwood, of the *Homœopathic Journal of Obstetrics*, has removed from Arlington to Ridgely Park, N. J.

Ants are said to have a bigger proportion of brains than any other creature, not excepting man.

The "pauper" labor of England seems to be getting along right comfortably—\$720,000,000 in the savings banks.

Dr. Lusk thinks it wisest to regard parturition "as a normal act." Well, yes, rather.

Ye "biochemic scientist" saith: "The lack of food produces what has been termed headache, gastralgia, diarrhœa and fever." Well, well!

"— of Iron" "does not constipate or injure the teeth," is the way the advertisement puts it.

Rub the rust off your pen occasionally and let the world have the benefit of the things you know in medicine.

Do you know that Baehrs' work on homœopathic practice, old though it be, is one of the most helpful and practical published?

Dr. S. S. Moffat gives the RECORDER'S readers another draught of his rhyme wine this month.

The *Medical Current* has departed this life and from its ashes arises the *Medical Era*, which erstwhile was swallowed by the *Medical Century*. Gatchell is running the new *Era* and making a good journal of it.

Less animal food and more pure unfermented grape juice is the thing at this season.

The *Materia Medica Pura* and the *Chronic Diseases* ought to be the standard materia medicas in all offices.

The *Dosimetric Review* says that the germ theory of disease is a house of cards.

The fourth edition of Raue's great work, *Special Pathology*, etc., will be the next book event. Much new matter has been added and it is an up to date homœopathic practice.

And now, with the robins, comes the glad cry, "play ball!"

If there is more than one law of cure why not formulate it?

Aunty Toxine doesn't seem to be as popular as she was at first.

Nearly 80,000 cases of Mumm's champagne were imported into the United States in 1895. It is easily the leader among champagnes, both in quantity and in quality.

Bloody discharge of urine resulting from injuries has been cured by *Triticum Repens*.

The International Homœopathic Congress meets at London, August 3 to 8 next.

Champions are no longer a rarity.

Ten thousand dollars for a Sunday paper full of Holmes' lies. Great is that "mighty engine of civilization," the press.

Have you seen the Roentgen ray hand with a ring on the little finger?

Carlyle preached the virtue of science—and wrote forty volumes.

Cloth may be "all wool" and poor stuff withal.

## THE HOMŒOPATHIC RECORDER.

VOL. XI. PHILADELPHIA AND LANCASTER, JUNE, 1896. No. 6.

### SOME OLD PAPERS ON PLANTAGO MAJOR.

(Friend Cresson called on the RECORDER a few weeks ago and, talking of old times, said he had some letters on the subject of *Plantago major*, of which he was one of the provers, that might not be without interest to a later generation. The RECORDER man expressed a wish to see them, and Dr. Cresson copied them out, in his fine old-style hand and here they are—this type writing generation ought to see that old copy book in which Dr. Cresson has copied all his correspondence, every letter as neatly hand-copied as the original was written).

(Copied by Charles Caleb Cresson From His Letters to Frederick Humphrey.)

### Curative Effects of Plantago Major on Animal Poisons, Having Symptoms of Blood Poisoning.

Dr. Frederick Humphreys, Auburn, Cayuga County, N. Y.

PHILADELPHIA, 5 mo., 25th, 1854.

*Respected Friend*.—Thy favor of the 20th inst. came to hand yesterday by which it is pleasant to hear that the change of air and scene has restored thy health. With regard to the snake bite story, I called on Thomas Firth to inquire of him, concerning it, and though, in some respects, different from what I heard (from his nephew, W. F. Toner), yet it is substantially the same except that Thomas Firth heard the account from an eye witness, a reliable man, but did not see it himself. But I will tell it to thee as Thomas Firth told it to me, as nearly as I can recollect. As soon as I left T. F. after hearing his account, I made a memorandum of it.

A number of years ago, say fifteen, there was a man taking a lot of Rattlesnakes to Europe to sell, who stopped at Philadelphia and exhibited them at our Masonic Hall in Chestnut street.

There were about 160 of them in a box with glass sides which Thomas Firth went to see. The largest were about three feet long, and although they pressed on one another, and the smallest if injured could have revenged himself by biting and killing the largest, yet they lived in perfect harmony. Each snake kept his head sticking out of the mass which was thus dotted with their heads.

The occurrence was related by John Price Wetherill to Thos. Firth (J. P. W. was a leading politician of Philadelphia, remarkable for his personally dirty habits, as to his clothes—he has a number of descendants). He was very wealthy by making white lead.

It appears that one day, in feeding the snakes or cleaning out the box, the man was bitten, which was observed by a woman, who spoke to him of it, but he told her he did not mind it.

This thing was heard of by J. P. Wetherill, who called on the man and asked him if he had any objection to tell what was his remedy? The man, Yankee like, saw an opportunity for making money, and offered (if they would make up a purse of \$100) to let himself be bitten in their presence as much as could satisfy them, and tell them all about the remedy, and fixed the next day but one for the time, as he wished to get plenty of the stuff to cure the bite fresh from the country.

Accordingly, on the day appointed, at 10 P. M. in the Masonic Hall the party assembled. Ten spectators at ten dollars each.

The man, having rolled up his sleeves, put his hand into the box and knocked the snakes about. They did not seem inclined to bite him, but after a while, one, and eventually four, bit him.

The spectators saw the blood of the bites and examined, so as to satisfy themselves.

Afterwards they saw the effects of the virus gradually ascending the arm, causing it to swell and change color, and the party told him if he did not go to work to cure it pretty soon he would be a gone chicken.

Very well, said the man, if you are satisfied I am.

And then he went to work. Drank some of the juice of a greenish color, and applied poultices of the bruised plant to each bite, changing the poultices every few minutes, and told them if they would call the next day he would show them the appearance of things.

The plant he used, was the common broad leaved *Plantain*.

This is the account as related by John Price Wetherill to Thomas Firth. Thomas Firth was personally acquainted with John Price Wetherill, and several times conversed with him concerning it.

Thomas Firth was formerly an extensive merchant of this city, who having retired on his fortune was afterwards, for many years, engaged as a manager in the Schuylkill Navigation Company.

He is uncommonly beloved and respected by his acquaintances, and is a man of sound judgment, and in whose word entire confidence can be placed.

John Price Wetherill, who died summer before last, was, for many years, one of the heads of the Whig party in this city, and one of our most active and intelligent men.

And though political life is not calculated to give a high tone to a man's moral character, yet Thomas Firth told me that he thinks there is no reason to doubt that what J. P. W. related in this matter is true.

Thomas Firth told me also, that he had heard, that the Indians use the *Wild indigo*, as a remedy for rattle snake bites.

I hope thee will excuse me from sending an account of my proving, as my health is so bad that I do not feel sufficient confidence in my symptoms.

Thy old residence remained idle for a long while but is now getting ready for a new tenant.

Hoping to see and hear thee the ensuing winter if we both live.

I remain respectfully thy friend,

CHARLES CALEB CRESSON.

P. S.—I do not know what use thee may intend to make of the above account. I did not say anything to Thomas Firth, about the matter, but think it would be disagreeable to him to see his name published, connected with an account that some people might possibly doubt.

**Curative Effects, of Plantago Major; in On Animal Poisons; Having Symptoms of Blood Poisoning. Poison from a Catfish, Spine of the Fin.**

(Copied by Charles Caleb Cresson; from his letter to Frederick Humphreys, in old letter book, at pp. 2 and 12.)

(To) *Dr. Frederick Humphreys, Auburn, Cayuga county, New York.*

PHILADELPHIA, 7 mo. (July) 24, 1854.

*Respected Friend*.—Thee desired me to send an account of anything interesting concerning *Plantago major*.

The following case seemed to me a good sample, though there is nothing very wonderful about it:

Elizabeth Lee, aged about fifty-seven years, widow of a farmer, resided, at the time of the following occurrence, near Upper Darby, on the River Schuylkill; resides at present with her son-in-law, Samuel Fussel, (tenant of my mother's farm, near Frankford.) Temperament, difficult to decipher. Nervous lymphatica?

One evening, in the forepart of June, about twenty years ago, she was cleaning catfish, for supper, and stuck the end of one of their fins into the large middle finger of her left hand on the palmer surface. It penetrated the skin, over the joint that is next above the knuckles, but she don't think it went into the cavity of the joint.

It bled very freely, yet she paid no attention to it but kept on washing the fish in very cold water.

Although it bled so freely, yet the wound was very indistinct, and when the finger became swelled, the wound could not be found again until it got well, when the sore was as large as a medium-sized pin's head, but at present the sore has entirely disappeared.

She put nothing on the first night except a rag for the bleeding. That night the pain went all the way up to her shoulder.

She cannot describe the pain, but, it made her cry, and she could not undress herself.

On the next morning the whole hand was swelled back and front, especially the injured finger. The arm, also, was swelled up to the shoulder, and there were two red streaks running from the hand up the front of the arm to the top of the shoulder.

There were two distinct streaks, (between them, the skin appeared natural, like the rest of her skin. (Lymphatica poison,) of light, pinkish red, each about one-fourth of an inch broad; they seemed near the surface, as if they might have been in the skin. (These streaks, seemed to have alarmed her considerably; and made a distinct impression on her mind.)

The first morning, after the accident, she put on catfish oil; (Hair of the dog that bit you,) (!) which she kept on till evening, when she took it off, and applied a lye poultice.

She kept on the poultice all that night and next day, (2nd day, after the accident.)

She could not observe any perceptible benefit from the lye poultice; it did not relieve the pain or swelling.

The pain and uneasiness was so great that she could not rest or be quiet; but was, all the time, in motion. She could not sit nor lie down quietly; she tumbled, and tossed, in bed, and could not sit quiet.

On the third day, after the accident (it may possibly have been the fourth) she was resting her head on the table, crying, when her husband said he would go over to Neighbor Hibberts to get some salve; this was a woman, notorious for making salves.

After her husband had started, E. Lee says that something seemed to say in her to "try *Plantain leaf*." She thinks it, a providential thought, for she had no recollection of ever seeing *Plantain* so applied, (though her mother used it for fever and teething children; putting a poultice of it to the foot, to draw out the fever).

In about half an hour after applying the *Plantain* she felt so relieved that she fell asleep and slept probably, an hour. (She had not slept before since the accident.)

Her husband was gone about a couple of hours, and when he returned she felt so much better that she did not use the salve he brought; but kept on with the *Plantain*. She used it two or three days. It made the finger sweat. She removed it whenever the leaf became dry by the inflammation. She rolled the *Plantain* leaf in her hands, and so softened it; then wrapped the bruised leaf round her finger and tied it on.

Twice then E. L. used *Plantain* for cuts, burns, etc. The way she happened to mention this was that a servant girl, a couple of weeks ago ran something into the end of her finger, causing swelling of the hand, pain in the shoulder, etc., which was relieved in half an hour, by *Plantain*, after being aggravated by a lye poultice.

I have been trying to make a preparation of *Plantago major* and would like to ask thee a question.

On pouring the alcohol into the juice there was a sediment thrown down. The clear fluid above was, for the first few hours, of a red color, when looking through it towards a bright sun light. The next day, it changed, to a purplish black, something like the color of Whortle berries.

I would like to know if this is O. K., it being the first

plant I have ever prepared, and fearing it might have been caused by some imperfection, in my operation.

In Vol. 2, p. 300., of the *N. Am. Hom. Journal* it is recommended, to make preparations of fresh plants by pouring their juice, on *Sac. Lac.* This appeared to me so reasonable, that I prepared a small quantity in that way. But made it a little differently for I saturated the sugar completely and after it had remained in a bottle half a day, and the juice completely soaked into the sugar, I poured off what I could of the juice, and spread the sugar about, one-eighth of an inch thick, on some bibulous paper, and pressed on top another piece of the same paper. These papers drew out the superfluous juice, by capillary attraction, as it is called. In six or eight hours I took it out of the paper and found it quite a hard little cake, which appeared to me a more satisfactory preparation, than the regular mother tincture. Although it is not the preparation, thee proved.

Respectfully,

CHARLES CALEB CRESSON.

No. 496½ Chestnut St.

(Old No. 496½ Chestnut St. is now No. 1618 Chestnut St.)

This sugar preparation is bad and dangerous, as Dr. C. Neidhard, showed me.

(Copies of letters to Dr. Frederick Humphreys by Chas. C. Cresson concerning *Plantago major*.)

Dr. F. Humphreys, Auburn, Cayuga Co., N. Y.

PHILADELPHIA, 3 mo. 5, 1855.

*Respected Friend*:—Accompanying are receipts for nineteen of the twenty dollars sent me in thy letter of 2 mo. 16. Also one dollar change is enclosed, in gold, inside. I am much obliged to thee for my proportion thereof.

About ten days ago I had a case that reminded me strongly of *Plantago*, and as the bottle I handed thee was all the tincture I had, it struck me whether thee had left it in this city with some one, if so, I would be much obliged if thee could tell me where to find it. I have since heard that it is doubtful whether the provings of *Plantago* made last year by thy class will be published by thee, which will be a great disappointment to me, as at the time of copying them I understood they were to have been published last summer.

I would be much obliged to thee for information whether certainly or not thee intends to publish them, &c.

Respectfully,

C. C. CRESSON.

(Enclosed was a receipt, as follows:

PHILADELPHIA, 2 mo. 26, 1855.

Received of Dr. F. Humphreys, by the hands of Chas. C. Cresson, one dollar each, being the return of money for the unexpired portion of examinations for Dr. Humphreys' private class in the Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania, session of 1854-5:

C. F. Saunders, \$1	E. M. McAfee, \$1.
I. F. Harvey, \$1.	S. C. Warren, \$1.
Geo. Wolfe, \$1.	M. Slocum, \$1.
Asa S. Couch, \$1.	A. C. McCants, \$1.
T. E. Sawyer by A. S. Couch, \$1.	Damon Y. Hyde, \$1.
H. Harris by Chas. F. Saunders, \$1.	L. A. Bilisoly, \$1.
R. S. James, \$1.	Jos. L. Walter, \$1.
G. F. Wesner, \$1.	Henry Thomas, \$1.
Chas. C. Cresson, \$1.	Thomas Nichols, \$1. (Glad to get it)
Also enclosed \$1 in gold. C. C. C.	O. C. Brickley, M. D., \$1.

Dr. C. Hering.

PHILADELPHIA, 3 mo. 5, '55.

*Respected Friend*:—Thee desired to have a little book of provings of *Plantago*, made by me last year as one of Dr. Humphreys' class.

Having searched thoroughly for it I regret to say I cannot find it, and believe I must have handed it to Dr. Humphreys.

Respectfully,

C. C. CRESSON.

496½ Chestnut street. (Now No. 1618 Chestnut street.)

Dr. F. Humphreys, Auburn, Cayuga Co., N. Y.

PHILADELPHIA, 5 mo. 15, 1855.

*Respected Friend*:—The two numbers of thy journal came duly to hand and I am much obliged to thee for remembering me, but would rather decline subscribing for it at present. Enclosed please find postage stamps in settlement for the Nos. sent.

Respectfully,

C. C. CRESSON.

(Three P. O. stamps enclosed.)

## EPIDEMIC AND ENDEMIC DISEASES.

### Diphtheria.

In my last communication I ended by asking, "If diphtheria originates from sewer gas how is it that this gas does not pro-

duce *typhoid* fever, which we know has its sole origin in decomposing animal matter?"

Of course the disease thus produced *does* give us typhoid fever and not diphtheria. Then it will be asked: But could any doctor be deceived in his diagnosis between these two diseases? Yes, he may be; I have been so deceived myself. From my own observation I have come to the conclusion that *with children* the poisonous gas from decomposing animal matter so affects the throat that the disease may readily be put down as diphtheria instead of typhoid fever. In one of my letters I gave an instance of this, and once again I must call attention to this case, because of the important fact that not until I gave this child *Fowler's Solution of Arsenic* was there any improvement in its condition.

I will now continue to quote from old notes: "Many doctors have stated that they have distinctly traced the origin of diphtheria to defective drains; others have traced it to decaying vegetables; and others, again, have been unable to trace it to either of these causes. One inference to be derived from all this is that what we call diphtheria is not a distinctly specific disease; that is, not one produced by a poison *sui generis*, but rather that the term diphtheria covers a small group of diseases which derive their origin from three separate sources."\*

The *third* source from which diphtheria may arise is what I call the *aërial* one: *i. e.*, from some alteration in the normal condition of our atmosphere. This source gives us the real epidemic diphtheria; the same source from which influenza and some other fevers arise. It may be, nay it is certain, that there are aërial poisons in our atmosphere all the year round, but every now and then there is an augmentation of their virulence, and then we have what is called an epidemic. Probably this aërial diphtheria is the worst form of the disease; and altogether it is the most formidable fever that we have to treat, it is a *treacherous* disease. Sometimes we fancy that the patient is going on very well, then comes a sudden change, a state of collapse ensues, and death follows. At least this used to be my experience some years ago, but with reformed treatment I do not anticipate this in the future.

In the severe epidemic which occurred here a few years ago I lost four or five patients. I sometimes wonder—we all sometimes wonder—whether any other treatment would have saved our

\*Further extracts afterwards.

patients. I wrote a long account of this epidemic and sent it to the editor of an allopathic monthly, but for some reason or other it was not accepted. I gave the details of fifteen cases, and from this record I will make a few quotations.

Case I. The first case I was called to see during the recent epidemic in this locality was at 8 P. M. The child died early the following morning. As it had been attended for two or three days by another doctor, and as he was expected again, I did not interfere. This gentleman had not told the mother that the disease was diphtheria, but when he called again *she told him*. I was afterwards informed that the doctor in his certificate did not ascribe the death as due to diphtheria. When I mentioned *cynanche laryngea* the mother thought that sounded like the name.

Case II. Child three years old, brought by its mother to surgery. Had been hot and feverish for two days. Puffy swelling of the neck and nasal defluxion. Could not see any diphtheritic deposit in the throat. Gave *Acon*. Two days later, child only a shade better. Gave *Potass. bichrom*. Two days later, quite well. I did not suspect diphtheria the first time I saw the child, as I ought to have done, hence two days were lost, for *Aconite* is of very little service in this disease. But *Bichromate of Potash* is a valuable medicine.

A query suggests itself in connection with this case: May we not have diphtheria and yet have no deposit of an adventitious character in the throat? I think so. The throat may present an inflammatory redness and yet stop short of throwing off any exudation.

Case III. Called to visit a girl seven years old, whom I found with these symptoms: Nasal discharge; inflamed throat, but not much exudation; puffy swelling externally; thirst; pulse 125; sleepy and prostrate. Gave *Pot. bichrom*. The following day there was much improvement; pulse reduced to 105, and tongue clearing. Next day further improvement. Recovered.

Case IV. Boy four years old, brother of the above, and has the same symptoms. *Pot. bichrom*. Two days later, going on remarkably well. Next day, not so well. Fever has returned; face is flushed; has been unconscious in the night. Gave him *Baptis*. Next day improving. Two following days still improving. *Baptisia* had a marked influence for good in this case in fact, the nearer the symptoms become those resembling typhoid

fever the more this remedy is indicated. The child was unconscious, wandering—from inert symptoms of a typhoid state.

Case V. Girl, æt. nine; sister of the former. Commenced three days after the last mentioned. Sore throat, with exudation; marked prostration; flushed face. Gave *Kali. bichrom.* Next day going on favorably, and the following day also; but in the afternoon became more feverish. Gave *Baptisia* every three hours. Two following days, improving; fever gone. Gave *Ferri acet.* From this time she improved day by day and needed no more medicine.

Here, again, there was no mistake concerning the good effect of *Baptisia*, for here, also, the symptoms were varying upon those of typhoid. I think in many of these cases our choice of a remedy lies between this medicine and *Arsenic*, *i. e.*, the *Arsenite of Potash*. Where there is a marked prostration and a thready pulse there is no remedy like *Arsenic*; but where the pulse is not of this suspicious character, but tolerably strong, face flushed, and the disease not so far advanced, then *Baptisia* will probably be found best.

Case VI. An older sister of the above now complained of sore throat, etc. She had been assisting her mother to nurse the others, and began to feel poorly five days after them. Her symptoms did not cause much anxiety and with *Acetate of Iron* she was quite well in six days' time.

Case VII. A child two years old was brought to me one evening between 8 and 9 o'clock. It was breathing very hardly—in fact, there was acute laryngitis. After a little reflection I came to the conclusion that the laryngitis (croup), had originated from diphtheria. The mother told me she had taken the child to a druggist the day before, and he had given it medicine for "bronchitis," as he called the disease.

Of course, there was very little hope of saving the life of this child, and seven hours afterwards it was dead.

Case VIII. A child one year old was brought to me with sore throat which proved to be diphtheria. The symptoms were not severe. Prescribed *Bichromate of Potash*; also one powder of *Biniodide of Mercury*. Two days after, going on well. Rep. Mist. Next day mother thought he was not so well, and sent for me to visit. She said the powder had done him most good, for he began to improve directly after taking it, but had since fallen back. Rep. pulv. ii, one to day, the other to-morrow.

Next day the child was much better. Four days later quite well.

Case IX. Boy, æt. ten, brother of the above, commenced six days after the other. No nasal discharge, and no cervical swelling; throat inflamed, but no exudation. Pulse 100. Gave *Biniodide of Mercury* every four hours. The following day he was much better. Two days after this quite well. The mother said to me "your *magic powders* soon cured them."

In the two next patients I attended the "magic powders" failed completely, and both children died.

I have the details of seven other cases before me, but it is hardly necessary to transcribe them here. My impression is that the medicine which proved most successful was the *Bichromate of Potash*, for all the patients who were treated with this medicine recovered. However, I am sanguine enough to believe that I have now found a still better medicine. It is a medicine that so far as I know has never been used in diphtheria before. It is true, I have only given it to three patients so far, but as in these three it has answered so well I am inclined to persevere with it. I will give the particulars of these cases.

I. Boy was brought to me with "sore throat." Upon examination found it to be diphtheria. Gave *Merc. biniod.* Next day throat worse; gave *Kali carb.* Next day vivid red rash on thorax, and much fever. Continue medicine. Next day very much better; discontinue *Kali c.* and give *Bell.* The boy soon recovered, and I attribute the quick recovery to *Kali carb.*

II. Boy four years old. Had been attended by an allopathic doctor for seven days before I was sent for. Visited at 9 P. M. I was informed that there had been a rash on the skin, but this was now gone. Temperature 104; tongue fairly clean; parotids much swollen; nasal discharge; much thirst. Could not see the throat, because the child could hardly open his mouth. I pronounced the disease to be diphtheria. Gave *Kali carb.* every two hours. To have a vinegar and water compress on the throat, after first giving a hot bath.

Following day, April 9th, temp. 103.5; face less flushed; no alarming depression; takes nothing but cold water. Slight improvement. Continue medicine.

10th. Further improvement. Temp. 102. Swelling of glands subsiding; also nasal discharge. Slept better. Continue *Kali carb.*

11th. Temp. 101.5, yet not so well otherwise. The cervical glands were more swollen; the boy had a more apathetic look; was drowsy and pallid. His father had left word that I was to be asked if I wished for a consultation, and to recommend a west end physician. This suggestion I discouraged, knowing that nothing more could be done. Ordered poultices to the neck during the day and vinegar compress for the night. Changed the medicine to *Kali bichrom.* As the boy had now been over a week without food, advised that he should have milk instead of water. Visited again in the evening. Temp. the same. Glands less swollen, and has not much difficulty in swallowing. Continue medicine.

12th. Improving. Temp. 100.5—one degree less than yesterday. Had coughed a good deal in the night. Glands less swollen, but can only swallow liquids. Continue *Kali bichrom.*

13th. Temp. a little higher, otherwise doing very well. Revert to *Kali carb.*

14th. Still improving. Temp. 99—about two and a half degrees less than yesterday. Gave *Ammon. mur.* for cough.

15th. Temp. risen to 101; otherwise getting on well. Revert to *Kali carb.*

16th. Temp. 100. Reduction due to *Kali carb.*, I think. Continue medicine.

18th. Temp. normal. In every respect better. The danger may be considered over, although the boy is very weak. From this day there was gradual progress. I gave *Hepar sulph.* for two days and *Muriatic acid* for three days.

I may remark that the boy's mother and also the servant maid, suffered from the same affection, although the latter had not been in the sick room. Both were speedily cured by *Kali carb.* I did not escape myself, either, for an attack of vomiting came on one day, after a feeling of depression for two days. As I did not at the time think it was diphtheritic poisoning, neglected to take any medicine. However, I recovered.

The third case can be dismissed in a few words. There was vomiting, sore throat, and a temperature of 103.5. After taking *Kali carb.* two days the temperature became normal and the throat better. Six days after this I ceased attendance, patient being convalescent.

After this experience I am naturally inclined to trust more in *Kali carb.* and *Kali bichrom.* than in any other medicines in the

treatment of the true epidemic diphtheria. And yet one can quite believe it possible that there may be epidemics in the future when both these remedies will fail. However, they are worth remembering. *Kali bichrom.* I give in solution, a drop or two of first centesimal for each dose. I look upon this as a mere dilution, not as a dynamized remedy. What the comparative value may be between dynamised and non-dynamised remedies in the treatment of fevers I am unable to say, not having used the former.

After the acute stage of diphtheria is over the subsequent treatment is not so difficult. The two most favored medicines with myself are *Muriatic acid* and *Acetate of Iron.*

G. HERRING.

#### AN OLD-TIME HOSPITAL CASE.

The sultry days are come, when the hammock, the cigar,\* and the book invite the weary doctor to take a little unwonted ease. Such a happy conjunction of hammock, cigar and book are the incitants to this scripture, for, surely, a homœopath should share with his fellows a book that was written by one of Hahnemann's contemporaries—none other than Dr. Antony Stoerck, the *quasi* "prover."

The old book is dated 1761, (it is an English translation), and is dedicated to "Her Most Sacred Majesty, MARIA TERESA, Queen of Hungary, Empress of the Romans."

(Doth her "Most Sacred" Shade hear me as I read aloud that sonorous title? What, your Majesty? No! Ah, the unbroken silence of the charnel house, and the dumb companionship of the slimy worm!)

The old *libellus* is—but let me give its title at full length: "A Second Essay on the Medicinal Virtues of HEMLOCK. In which its efficacy in the cure of many desperate disorders is fully confirmed by a great variety of remarkable cases, where this remedy has been administered by several eminent physicians and surgeons in different parts of Germany and Flanders, as well as by the author, Dr. Antony Stoerck, Aulic Councillor and one of the principal physicians to Her Most Sacred Majesty the Empress

\*The "Pride of Michigan" brand, \$1.15 per cord by canal; \$1.18 by way freight. The first inch makes a novice think he'll die. He's sorry he didn't before the "Pride" is finished.