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*Trials and Rewards of the Medical Profession.*—That veteran of surgery, Dr. Mussey, who has been prominent in the professorial chair, and eminent as a practitioner, now in the full strength of advancing age, while his honors are thick upon him, has embarked in a new enterprise. The Miami Medical College, located at Cincinnati, is altogether a new creation, and Dr. M. is the main pillar in sustaining the structure, as we understand the matter in this direction. At the opening of the first lecture session, in October last, as professor of surgery, Dr. Mussey delivered a discourse on the trials and rewards of the medical profession. No person can be more familiar with these matters than himself. Pithy illustrations of the phases of a physician's every-day intercourse, give a zest to the lecture. The whims of the sick; the ignorance of those assuming to be wise; the stupidity of some, the flattery of many practitioners, and their mean subserviency to their inferiors for the sake of business, as pictured by him, are true to nature. The spirit and tendency of this essay are good. It recognizes the workings of a Divine Providence, not precisely in words, but in principle; and there is a truthfulness in his propositions, that the understanding acknowledges at sight. Dr. Mussey has a reputation that commands the respect of the best class of minds, and we hope that the frosts of age may approach him gently, and his last days be as happy as the morning and meridian of his professional career were peaceful and prosperous.

*The Mother and her Offspring.*—An occasional notice of the preparation of this treatise, by Stephen Tracy, M.D., formerly of the missionary service in China, has appeared in the Journal. Within a few weeks, it came from the press of the Harpers, in New York, in a neat and acceptable form. Several publishers in Boston had the refusal of the manuscript, but declined putting it in type, imagining, no doubt, that it would not be a very saleable production. If so, then it is the third work that has been recently rejected by them, either one of which, in a money-making point of view, would have been profitable. Dr. Tracy's book, it is confidently predicted, will have an immense run. While the plan is truly professional, it is calculated for popular circulation. There are twenty-three chapters, embracing the following leading topics, viz.:—indications of pregnancy; preservation of health during the period; preparations for confinement; re-production in vegetables; re-production in the lower animals; re-production in human beings; confinement; regimen of the nursing mother; washing and bathing infants; dressing of infants; clothing of infants; nourishment of them; wet nurses; weaning; diet after weaning; sleep of infants; exercise; mental influences; government and habits; intellectual culture; diseases of pregnancy; diseases occurring after confinement, and diseases of children. There are hundreds of subjects discussed in connection with these leading heads, comprising every condition of mother and child, through all periods of gestation, and from birth through the various stages of moral and physical training. Dr. Tracy is a charming writer. He

understands what is wanted, and has the ability to meet the demand. To write on these topics, and avoid technicalities on the one hand, and any shadow of grossness or vulgarity on the other, was a difficult undertaking. As it is, no fault can be found with the book, or the pure English in which it is dressed; and a high moral tone pervades its 361 pages. Although fitted to another meridian, medical students might glean knowledge from it, that would enable them to direct and to do many things appropriately, in the commencement of practice, which often devolve upon them. These semi-professional lucubrations do not interfere with the regular province of the physician; on the contrary, if they fall under the eye of sensible, reflecting persons, the effect is to increase their confidence in the resources of legitimate medicine, and in well-educated practitioners. The diffusion of elementary physiology among the masses, is absolute death to quackery.

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*Opium Trade.*—A new edition of a sketch of the history, extent and effects of the opium trade in India and China, by Nathan Allen, M.D., of Lowell, Mass., is now before the public. Our views have not been changed in regard to the character of this able production, since we had occasion to speak of it some months ago. Dr. Allen has concentrated an immense amount of information from reliable sources, which lays open the great moral evils of the commerce in opium. It is absolutely horrible that a Christian nation like England, can persist in such wrong doing, with a full knowledge of the misery, poverty, degradation and destruction of life that invariably follow. A synopsis of the woes that cling to opium-smokers in China, would be too formidable for re-publication in any periodical, and those who would know the extent of suffering that belongs to an habitual use of the terrible drug, as exhibited on a grand scale in those countries, are confidently referred to Dr. Allen's publication, as the source of more correct information that can be found in so small a compass, in any author in the English language. Copies may be procured at Messrs. Mussey's, Ticknor's, and Fettridge's, in Boston.

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*Mysterious Agents.*—Dr. Rogers, the learned and persevering author of a series of numbers on the philosophy of mysterious agents, has brought out No. III. which surpasses the two first in point of interest. No man has written more profoundly on the dynamic laws and their relations to man. Some of his facts, illustrative of propositions, almost bring ghosts into the room. Dr. Drury's account of the haunted house, and what he both saw and heard, in the hamlet of Willington, seem to have afforded Dr. Rogers a strong case. Ingenious as he is, we are not wholly convinced that his views are correct. As the work progresses, it becomes fascinating to a philosophical mind. The author proposes soon to bring out a volume on witchcraft, and to possess himself of all the facts touching its existence in New England. He has been diving into the archives of the State House, and has examined the original Court papers produced on the trial of the witches at Salem. A rare and curious production may therefore be anticipated.

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*Cosmography.*—Little as medical men may have to do, in their daily business, with a history of the earth, it is far from being beneath their notice to watch the progress of general science, and especially that noble one,

astronomy. Still, we should not have gone far out of the legitimate course of our hebdomadal, to speak of a subject so vast, were it not that one of the brotherhood, a modest, retired practitioner, has suddenly surprised and delighted his acquaintances with a course of philosophical reflections on the formation of the solar system, accompanied by the promulgation of a new theory, that invests his deliberations with peculiar interest. Whenever a physician distinguishes himself in any department of knowledge, out of the common course of his orbit, he exalts the profession to which he belongs; and we have reason to be proud of the bright array of great names in the calendar of fame, that sprang from our ranks. Charles F. Winslow, M.D., of Waltham, Mass., formerly of Nantucket, and for many years a resident of the Sandwich Islands, has written a small volume, under the unobtrusive title of "Cosmography; or Philosophical Views of the Universe," that is calculated to give activity to the thoughts of one class of philosophers, the astronomers, if no others. He labors to develop and establish the theory, that repulsion is a planetary force. In the second part, the reader is presented with an analytical examination of the solar system, and the application of the theory of *repulsion* to the creation of the universe. Part third is intensely captivating, and embraces the consideration of the inequalities of the surface of the solid spheres, and the successive revolutions observed throughout the crust of the globe, as results of the alternating intensity of cosmical forces. Not daring to obtrude largely, upon purely medical readers, topics which are in no way connected with the special objects of this Journal, we shall merely announce to those of them who cultivate a taste for general science, that Dr. Winslow has secured to himself an elevated position by this publication. He demonstrates the possession of a mind capable of grasping great thoughts, and of conducting inquiries of the loftiest import.

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*Atlas of Pathological Histology.*—If the proposed international copyright becomes a law, re-published foreign works on medicine and surgery will be vastly enhanced in price. There is not a book worth having, of European origin, that cannot be purchased in the United States, when it comes out in an American dress, very much below the prices asked abroad. Joseph Leidy, M.D., of Philadelphia, is the translator of Dr. Gottlieb Gluge's "Atlas of Pathological Histology," which appears in a beautiful form, with double columns in folio, illustrated by copperplate engravings. Messrs. Blanchard & Lea are the publishers, and of course the typography is unexceptionable. The translator says of *Pathological Histology*—"its importance to pathological anatomy is of the same character as normal histology is to normal anatomy; and this cannot be better represented than by referring to the great and permanent advance which physiology has made in its relation to the physical structure of the organs of the living body. Pathological anatomy also is, beyond doubt, of the highest value in medicine, for a scientific treatment of disease must necessarily depend, to a very considerable extent, upon our knowledge of material changes which are so frequently the source of those symptoms which indicate its existence." Whoever sees this finished publication, will covet it. Copies are to be had at Ticknor's, Boston.

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*Penn Medical College.*—What kind of an institution is it? One of its professors (Emeritus), resides in London; and another in New York.

The circular announcing a Spring session in Philadelphia, was printed at Providence, R. I.! There is one grand feature in the prospectus, that might be profitably imitated by the venerables who have never acted energetically beyond securing their fees. It runs thus—viz., "The sessions of the Penn College will be full of interest to their close—for the several professors will not weary the students with speculative nothings, long drawn out, merely to occupy the hours daily assigned in the continuance of a longer term." The Penn College has learned one bad trick, copied from those who are older in the field,—the sale of matriculation tickets. In claiming attention and patronage on the score of peculiar moral qualifications, it would be a capital idea to renounce the unrighteous demand of five dollars under the name of *matriculation*. It is an indirect way of sponging the students. If legally tested, we apprehend that monies, thus collected, would necessarily have to be returned. The students pay for instruction, and not for keeping buildings in repair. They are not obliged to maintain fires, pay janitors or black the boots of the faculty.

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*Providence (R. I.) Bill of Mortality.*—An orderly arranged annual abstract of the deaths occurring in the neighboring city of Providence, for the year 1852, has been published. It gives a grand total of 914, of which 199 were by consumption. Dysentery was the disease which swept off the next highest number—75; hydrocephalus 33, and typhoid fever 29. No epidemic appears to have been recognized in the time, and the mortality may be considered as no way extraordinary.

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*Naval Board of Medical Examiners.*—Having carefully examined thirty-four applicants, they finally selected nine, who were the best qualified, and who will be commissioned assistant surgeons, as follows,—viz.: James H. Stuart, of Pennsylvania; J. Pembroke Thom, of Virginia; John M. Browne, of New Hampshire; John F. Taylor, of Delaware; Henry Clay Caldwell, of Virginia; Thos. J. Turner, of Pennsylvania; Wm. T. Hord, of Kentucky; Wentworth R. Richardson, of Massachusetts; A. Clarkson Smith, of Pennsylvania. Six others, already in commission, were found worthy of promotion—Wm. Lowber; P. J. Horwitz; B. Rush Mitchell; D. B. Phillips; James Hamilton; J. L. Burt.

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*Lunatic Asylum in the District of Columbia.*—A site for a hospital for the insane of the District of Columbia and of the army and navy, has been purchased for \$25,000. It is situated about two miles south of the Capitol, and contains about 190 acres, nearly one half in a high state of cultivation. Congress appropriated \$100,000 for the site and buildings, and the latter will be erected when the plans have been properly examined and approved. Dr. Charles H. Nichols has been appointed superintendent.

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*New York State Lunatic Asylum.*—This is a mammoth institution in its external appearance. In passing by, the traveller would be led to suppose the establishment was a fortress. Imperfection seems to be apparent even in this model lunatic asylum, as the managers state that ventilation was unprovided for in its original construction. It is remarkable that there should have been such a large amount of money expended to make this

asylum the very best in the Union, and at this late period the announcement be made that "*ventilation was unprovided for in the original construction of the buildings.*" Sixty thousand dollars are now asked of the Legislature for warming and ventilation. For one year, ending December 1, 1852, the receipts from all sources were \$80,001 35; and the outgoes the same. Whole number of patients during that time, 825; and the number of applicants greater than in any previous year. Sixty were refused, and in all, 75 citizens of the State had the doors closed upon them for want of accommodations. The medical superintendent suggests the erection of another hospital for two hundred patients, of the male sex only. He approves of having the sexes in distinct houses, accompanying the recommendation with proper and sufficient reasons. The medical report says that 156 recovered in 1852; 11 were much improved; 42 improved; 152 unimproved, and 39 died. Among the causes leading to the insanity of the inmates, 46 were made so by intemperance; 29 by spiritual rappings and popular errors; 23 by domestic trouble; and 40 by masturbation. Most of the physician's report is made up of details of items that are needed to better the asylum, together with remarks on the domestic management of the internal affairs of the institution.

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*Revalenta Arabica.*—Considerable attention seems to have been given in England, to a new farinaceous compound, especially designed for the food of invalids and children, under the name of *revalenta arabica*, an agency for which has been recently established by Dr. Litchfield, at 215 Washington st., Boston. Without being at all influenced by the thousand and one certificates accompanying each package, testifying to the sovereign cures effected by it, it is sufficient to state the simple fact that the arabica food meets the approbation of those who have the care of the sick. Being easily digested, and highly nutritious, the demand is said to be large in Great Britain and on the continent. Dr. Litchfield would not, we think, have identified himself with a worthless preparation; and Dr. Ure has certified that it is a pure vegetable farina, perfectly wholesome, easily digestible, and likely to promote healthy action of the stomach and bowels, and thereby to counteract dyspepsia.

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*Use of Quinine in the Treatment of Rheumatism.*—Dr. Ramsay has shown, on another page of the Journal of to-day, that he is entitled to the credit of having used quinine in rheumatism previous to the occurrence of the cases of M. Briquet, alluded to in the Journal of the 16th ult. Those cases, however, were not the first which M. Briquet has thus treated; as we perceive in the London Lancet of Jan. 14, 1843, a particular account of this mode of treatment both by Briquet and M. Devergie of the same Hospital (St. Louis). The latter objects to the employment of larger doses than from 15 to 30 grs. per diem of the sulphate. We mention this circumstance in accordance with the principle of the motto which Dr. Ramsay quotes—"*Fiat justitia ruit celo.*"

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*Monumental Stone.*—A committee was raised at the last meeting of the American Medical Association, for the purpose of procuring a suitable stone, with an appropriate inscription, for insertion, in the name of the association, in the national monument to the memory of Washington, now in

progress in the City of Washington. Dr. Atlee, the Chairman, has issued a circular, soliciting a subscription of one dollar from each member, to be transmitted by mail, to Jno. L. Atlee, M.D., Lancaster, Penn.

*State Lunatic Asylum for Western New York.*—Governor Seymour, in his message to the Legislature, recommends the erection of another Lunatic Asylum in this State, to be located in its Western portion. A bill has been brought forward in the Senate in accordance with this recommendation. The necessity for increased accommodations is very urgent and ought not be delayed.—*American Journal of Insanity.*

*Medical Miscellany.*—The Quarterly Review, in answer to the question —“What is man?” says —“Chemically speaking, a man is forty-five pounds of carbon and nitrogen, diffused through five and a half pails full of water.”—During the famine year of 1846 in Ireland, there were more marriages than ever before were registered in that country. —Orfila has given 8,000 francs to the Academy of Medicinæ for a biennial prize fund. —In the Pennsylvania Med. College, 56 recently graduated with M.D.; at the Kentucky Med. School, 39; Missouri University, 26; St. Louis, 33; and at the Maryland University, 59. —A woman in the Cincinnati Hospital presents the following appearance — Her legs are enormously enlarged, being over two feet in circumference at the ankles, and her body is swollen to the shoulders in even larger proportion, being not less than ten feet girth. Her disease commenced about three years since, and has now assumed a chronic form. — In the State of Georgia there is one Medical College, with six teachers and 150 students, who pay into its treasury some \$10,500. — Dr. Jedediah Miller, the lately appointed Health Commissioner of New York, has a salary of \$3,500. — They are determined to have a marine hospital at Burlington, Iowa. — A new medical theorist divides all diseases into two classes, — viz., those of which the patients die, and the other from which they recover. — A revolutionary soldier 104 years old, is on a visit at Cincinnati, from Richmond, Virginia. — A charter has been granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, for another medical college, called Chrono-Thermal, probably to be located in Philadelphia. The people of that State understand the art of concentrating medical power and influence, by accommodating all parties and shades of applicants. — At the Philadelphia Medical College, 27 recently took the degree of M.D. At the Homœopathic, 55; at the Pennsylvania, 55; and at the Jefferson, 223. — Public health is restored at Hayti — the yellow fever having entirely disappeared.

**MARRIED.**—D. E. Stillman, M.D., of Dover, N. Y., to Miss E. Wadsworth.—In Boston, E. Brown Seaward, M.D., of Paris, to Miss E. Fletcher.—In the Cherokee country, D. D. Hitchcock, M.D., to Miss M. Worcester.—At Syracuse, N. Y., Charles N. Germaine, M.D., to Mrs. Mary J. Johnson, both of Syracuse

**DIED.**—In California, Dr. C. C. Abby, of Littleton, Vt. Dr. Dunkan, late member of Congress. —At Danvers, Mass., Andrew Nichols, M.D., aged 70, a worthy man, and an eminent practitioner. —In Paris, M. Orfila, the celebrated chemist and toxicologist.

*Deaths in Boston for the week ending Saturday noon, April 2d, 80.* Males, 45—females, 37. Inflammation of the bowels, 2—bronchitis, 1—congestion of brain, 1—inflammation of the brain, 2—burns and scalds, 2—cancer, 1—consumption, 10—convulsions, 1—croup, 6—dropsy, 2—dropsy in head, 5—drowned, 2—infantile diseases, 3—typhoid fever, 2—scarlet fever, 5—homicide, 1—hooping cough, 1—disease of the heart, 4—inflammation of the lungs, 12—marasmus, 2—old age, 6—palsy, 1—peritonitis, 1—teething, 5—tumor, 2.

Under 5 years, 36—between 5 and 20 years, 12—between 20 and 40 years, 10—between 40 and 60 years, 11—over 60 years, 11. Born in the United States, 67—Ireland, 9—England, 1—Scotland, 1—Switzerland, 1—So. America, 1. The above includes 4 deaths in the city institutions.

*Surgical Operation on a Turkey.* — H. G. Howe, Esq., of Lawrence, Mass., describes an operation performed by himself, which may be of use to growers of poultry, and is of interest also to surgeons. One of his turkeys was noticed for several weeks to be drooping, and was found to be likely to die. On examination, the crop was noticed to be full and hard, and it was determined to open it. The creature was secured, and with a sharp razor the skin of the breast was laid back, and the crop opened, which was found nearly bursting with *dried hay*, nearly a hat full of which was taken out. With a needle and thread of fine silk the opening was carefully sewed up; the turkey was then kept quiet for a few days in a warm box, with a little soft bread soaked in milk for food, when it was allowed to run at large and soon completely recovered.

*South Carolina Asylum for the Insane.* — At the last session of the Legislature of South Carolina, an appropriation of \$30,000 was made, for the purpose of erecting a new building or buildings for the accommodation of the insane patients in the State Institution of Columbia. In January last a committee was appointed from the Board of Regents, to report on the most serviceable manner of laying out this sum, and, from their printed report, we are glad to find that a proposition to give up the present Institution entirely, and to commence a new Hospital in the country, has been seriously entertained, although no definite action has yet been had on the subject.—*American Journal of Insanity.*

*Commencement of the Female Medical College, Pennsylvania.*—A large and fashionable audience graced the Musical Fund Hall, on the 27th Jan., at the commencement of this institution. The new President, Mr. Cleaveland, who is a popular principal of a female academy in our city, conferred the degrees in Latin, after reading the diploma to the successful candidates (nine in number), for its honors. The "charge" was delivered by Dr. Cornell, Professor of Physiology. He performed his difficult task most successfully, and is evidently a practised public speaker. He referred, among other things, to the acknowledged physical inferiority of the American females, and urged on the lady-graduates to seek the cause and remedy of this great evil.—*Philadelphia Med. and Surg. Journal.*

We understand the above statement respecting the reading of the diplomas to the graduates is not correct. The portion of the President's remarks which was in Latin was addressed to the officers of the College, and the diplomas were very properly left for the graduates themselves to read.

*Vital Statistics of Petersburg, Va.* — A writer in the *Intelligencer*, of Petersburg, in some remarks upon a table of deaths for nine years, prepared by him, estimates the number of deaths by consumption during that time in that city to have averaged 15 and a fraction per year, or about 1 in 533 annually of the population. This disease stands at the head, as in more northern climates, of the causes of death. Next in number comes cholera infantum—126 in nine years. Pneumonia stands next—63 deaths in the same time; and pleurisy and affections of the bowels and brain next. Old age stands 10th on the list. As in other places where cholera has prevailed, it is perceived that in Petersburg the mortality was unusually low during the year succeeding its prevalence, being less than any year of the nine.