

able to use it freely with the effect desired, for many hours during the day. Simple as the process of inhalation may appear, and really is, it being merely breathing through the tube, I have seen many who could not, until after many trials, employ it successfully or with facility.

With those commencing inhalation, whether as a preventive or curative measure, or for the purpose of strengthening the respiratory organs, I think it best to commence with a merely natural inspiration, and when accustomed to it, to increase by slow degrees, yet steadily, the act of inspiration, in order that additional power and capacity may be given to every portion of the respiratory organs. Adopting this course, we gain, safely and surely, the mechanical in addition to the remedial action of inhalation, and as a consequence, in many cases, an increased power and capacity of the lungs—a point of no trifling value.

THE DUTIES OF STATE ASSAYERS IN RELATION TO QUACK MEDICINES.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE newspapers are constantly puffing quack medicines, whose innocuous or beneficial effects are certified to by State Assayers. One of the most unprofessional of these certificates accompanies the Peruvian Syrup. Whatever the wording may be, the readers of quack advertisements infer, from its tone, that the Peruvian Syrup has virtues which are not possessed by the citrate, tartrate, lactate and other preparations well known to the profession. There is a common idea in the public mind, that the tincture of the chloride, and iron rust, are the forms in which Iron is given, and that this certificate is in favor of a substitute for those exceedingly disagreeable preparations. To the profession at large, the Peruvian Syrup is a secret remedy, and as a secret remedy it does harm. Is not the certificate in favor of such irregular practice?

Every paper that comes to your door contains a State Assayer's puff for somebody's Bourbon whiskey. Can a State Assayer's analysis show the difference between Columbia and Bourbon?

Green's mixture of cinchona and sulphuric acid used to bear an assayer's certificate, if it does not now; an irregularity which, in any other State, would subject him to trial before the medical association.

It has been reported quite extensively, that a State Assayer's duties under the law require that he should give a certificate of the composition of any article brought to him for examination. The only statute which I can find (there may be others) in the Massachusetts laws, alluding to the duties of that office, is as follows:

"§ 1. *Be it enacted, &c.* The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, may appoint one or more suitable persons to be assayers of ores and metals, who shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties.

"§ 2. It shall be the duty of each assayer to assay such ores and metals as may be offered him for assay, and to give a certificate thereof, for which service he shall be paid a reasonable compensation by the person procuring such assay to be made.

"Approved March 18th, 1846."

It must be under the provisions of some other act that the assay of Bourbon Whiskey and Peruvian Syrup come, but I cannot find it.

The object of making the office doubtless was, to encourage the working of valuable mineral deposits, which were known or supposed to exist in various parts of the State. The manufacture of quack medicines is a branch of industry, probably, not in the view of the Legislature of 1846.

C. E. B.

Bibliographical Notices.

Transactions of the New Hampshire Medical Society (sixty-seventh Anniversary), held at Concord, June 2 and 3, 1857. Concord: Jones & Cogswell, Printers. 8vo. pp. 104.

This publication contains several excellent papers by members of the Society. The address by the President, Dr. FRANCIS P. FITCH, of Amherst, is an admirable exposition of the evils resulting from the want of sanitary knowledge, and a powerful and eloquent appeal to the inhabitants of the State and the government for the enactment of suitable laws to provide for a proper registration law, by which proper statistical data and sanitary observations could be obtained which are so loudly demanded for the improvement of health and comfort, the prolongation of life and the promotion of morality and happiness. We hope that the Legislature of New Hampshire will be influenced by Dr. Fitch's convincing arguments, and establish a suitable law for the registration of vital and mortuary statistics. The report of the Committee on Surgery, by Dr. GEORGE H. HUBBARD, contains a number of interesting cases, many of which show the importance of conservative treatment in cases of severe injury. Dr. T. J. W. PRAY, of Dover, has contributed a valuable and interesting paper on Nursing Sore Mouth, a subject which has been strangely neglected by systematic writers. The report on Practical Medicine contains a sketch of the epidemic diseases of the city of Manchester, from 1853 to 1857, inclusive, by Dr. WM. B. BROWN, who is in favor of a more active treatment of disease than prevails at the present time. One of the most interesting papers in the "Transactions," is entitled "Miscellaneous observations in Obstetrics and Diseases of Women," by Dr. WILLIAM HENRY THAYER, of Keene. Dr. Thayer discusses the subjects of the time for rupturing the membranes in labor, presentation of the funis, hæmorrhage after delivery, dividing the funis, conglutination of the os uteri, and the treatment after delivery. His observations are judi-