

awakened dormant powers into activity, it is by a mechanism precisely like that which our French psycho-therapists call "suggestion in the waking state."

DEATH BY A DRUGGIST'S ERROR.

THE fatal mistake of a Haverhill druggist, whereby eighty-eight grains of podophyllin were put up for one dose for a young woman, the sign *ss*, representing half a grain, being mistaken for eighty-eight, the mistake resulting in the death of the young woman, illustrates the folly of allowing young clerks with no preliminary study or preparation to undertake the responsibility of dispensing drugs.

Were the law whereby apothecaries are authorized to dispense medicines as stringent as it ought to be, or were there, in fact, any State Statute whereby a man with no fitness for the place is forbidden to sell powerful drugs (and in all foreign countries such protection is given the public, ignorant and incompetent men being excluded from the druggist's office), such mistakes would seldom or never occur. A very superficial knowledge of *materia medica* would have indicated to the dispensing apothecary that eighty-eight grains of podophyllin was a dose that it would be impossible for a physician to prescribe.

MEDICAL NOTES.

— The following application for a pension is copied from the records of a United States pension bureau in a Western city. Readers will kindly excuse its early English for the sake of its anatomical curiosities, and the light it throws upon the temptations to which examiners for pensions are subjected.

I do her by swar before god that i was shot betwixt my leggs and mi rite legg an in my hed; it went in to me rite in the middle an ripped me all to thunder, it cut of one of my strings and dropped one of my kasters in the bottom of the sak an there hit as been ever since, and mi wife says it is a dam shame, case it is sorter nocked me up on the family biz. but hant a mindin that air much; hits the bustin the damed ball done me behind, as i hats (hates) for it kom out rite in the cheek of mi as an left a big skar an it hurts when I set down that is what i want a pension for it is; I hant no dimikrat, nor i want shot in the as like some of these pizen dimikrats bout these parts say i was; i gott that facing the rebs i did an i was treated by a temprey hospital surgen named tod in a temprey hospital on the bank of tenese river in temprey camp; camp by the border of chatanoga tense; now ginthemens i want a pension, and if you dont give me one i'll be g-d d-m if i vote for any of your crowd agin;

fraterally yours til deth, B.

BOSTON.

— Dr. J. S. F. Bush met with a serious accident last week. He was thrown from his carriage, his horse running away, and one knee-joint was laid open, the patella being almost torn off.

— Dr. James R. Chadwick, who was delegated to represent Harvard University at the recent festivities at Heidelberg, tells a story of the "republican austerity" which he was supposed to illustrate. For while other delegates presented their credentials emblazoned upon parchment, and enclosed in cases of velvet and gilt, all that he had to offer was an informal note, written on a half-sheet of paper by President Eliot, and bearing date at his summer residence at Mt. Desert. — *Harper's Weekly*.

Dr. Chadwick's credentials, we believe, were mailed at Mount Desert, but bore date at Cambridge.

NEW YORK.

— The tenth annual commencement of the Training School for Nurses of the Charity and Maternity Hospitals, on Blackwell's Island, took place on the 26th of October, in the chapel of Charity Hospital. Dr. Henry Goldthwaite presented diplomas to a graduating class of twenty-four, and Commissioner Brennan gave each member of the class a nurse's pocket-case.

— A somewhat sudden and serious outbreak of small-pox, the origin of which has not yet been traced by the authorities, has occurred in Brooklyn, and Health Commissioner Otterson has appointed six sanitary inspectors on special vaccination service. An extra force of men has also been assigned to duty on the fumigating corps.

— Measles has become quite prevalent in New York. During the week ending October 30, there were reported 162 cases. During that ending October 9, the number was 55; October 16, 95; and October 23, 108. 420 cases have been reported during the past four weeks, but the mortality has been low, only 37 deaths having occurred from the disease. Most of the cases have been in charitable institutions.

Miscellany.

GREAT WITS AND MADNESS.

THE JOURNAL has already, in a previous volume, referred to the marked strain of madness in the family of Victor Hugo, who had, on the maternal side, a mad uncle and mad cousins, whose brother Eugene died in a mad-house, and whose only surviving daughter, Adele, has been for years in confinement. A Paris letter says: "A controversy is now going on in the scientific world on the conditions under which genius is produced. Senator Naquet, and Drs. Marechal, Jacopy, and Bull say that it is a neurosis, and that most great men have had mad or epileptic ancestors or descendants, or been themselves attacked with epilepsy, or been, in some respects, on the very brink of lunacy. Cæsar and Peter the Great had falling sickness. Napoleon was subject to long fits of fainting that resembled catalepsy. Newton had also a disordered nervous system. Byron's mother was a raging, irresponsible termagant, and father no better. Isabella the Catholic, who was certainly a woman of genius, had a mad uncle, a mad brother, and mad daughter, the ancestor of all the Spanish and Austrian Hapsburgs. Her (Isabella's) grandson, Charles V, also a man of prodigious politi-

cal genius, was epileptic, and the progenitor of a line which ended in idiocy. Pascal had fits and hallucinations. Luther also had the latter, and thought he saw the devil in person coming to tempt him. William the Conqueror was the son of Robert the Devil, who must have had, to judge from the legend which has been handed down, a nervous system that ran riot. According to the new theory, genius, like the orchard pear or apple tree, or the double rose, or dahlia, is abnormal, and except in an intellectual sense, sterile. Thus Dante (a hypochondriac), Michael Angelo, Raphael, Shakespeare, Cowper, Wordsworth, Byron, Scott, and De Quincy either left no posterity, or families that soon died out. That of Victor Hugo is not apparently destined to live long."

SIR SPENCER WELLS ON THE OCCUPATIONS OF WOMEN AND OVER-PRESSURE.

In his inaugural address before the Sanitary Congress, recently held at York, England, Sir Spencer Wells spoke on the above subject as follows, according to the report in the *Lancet*. "So far as concerns the mental and physical training of children, and giving women the option of other occupations than those of domestic life, I see no great cause for alarm. It is an age in which education — at any rate for the middle classes — must be pushed far beyond the limits which our fathers thought wide enough for us. Mere rule-of-thumb work is almost out of date, and there are so many industries in which scientific knowledge and exactness are requisite, that the want of early education cuts off a young man's chances of advancement. To engage in most of the recent applications of steam power, electricity, magnetism, and chemistry — to be available in carrying out the complexities of engineering science — a workman must be something more than a mere machine. He must have head as well as hands — brain as well as muscle; and as uneducated brains are not worth more in the labor market than untrained muscle, we must be content to make some sacrifice in the culture. While we pity the few who fall in the struggle, we must remember that there is no chance for those who stand still. As for the outcry about the dangers from women taking up men's work, it is breath wasted. A great many failures will outweigh a few successes and bring the balance right. For my own part, I think women capable of a great deal more than they have been accustomed to do in times past. "To suckle fools and chronicle small beer" surely cannot be the chief end of woman. If overwork sometimes leads to disease, it is more morally wholesome to work into it than to lounge into it. And if some medical practitioners have occasionally observed cases where mental overstrain has led to disease of mind or body, I cannot deny that I also have at long intervals seen some such cases. But for every such example I feel quite sure that I have seen at least twenty where evils equally to be deplored are caused in young women by want of mental occupation, by deficient exercise, too luxurious living, and too much amusement or excitement. Again, we have heard much of late about over-pressure from work in schools. This is one of the novelties of our time. No doubt it exists, and I think it may in part be traced to some of our sanitary success. We have reduced the

mortality of early infancy. Many children who would formerly have died off-hand are now saved, and find their way into the schools. They are the survivals of the least fitted. They live, but they are not strong — not so strong as the average. They have to submit to the same routine, and to be forced up, if possible, to the same standard as the rest. But the effort is too much for them. Their frames are not hardy enough to resist the mental strain. They show all sorts of nerve symptoms, disappoint the teachers, and are the types brought forward as victims of the system. The vice of the system is that it is indiscriminate. There is no revision of the recruits, and the tasks are not apportioned to the feeble powers of sanitary survivors. This is an evil which will remedy itself in time by the growing up of a larger proportion of strong children, and the present difficulty may be got over by a little patience and moderation — a little more regard to sanitary logic. The children must have training before education, and must be put upon something even less than a half-time system."

RESOLUTIONS IN MEMORY OF ALLEY TALBOT WAKEFIELD, M.D.

At a meeting of the Cambridge Medical Improvement Society held October 25th, 1886, the following resolutions were passed: *Whereas*, in the death of Dr. Alley Talbot Wakefield, on the 18th inst., this society has lost a much esteemed member, we wish to express our sense of loss, our appreciation of his character and ability, and our sympathy with his family and immediate friends.

During his brief association with us we recognize a character pure, noble, and of strict integrity. We found him devoted to his work, prompt and efficient in emergencies because of his thorough knowledge and perfect self-control.

To exceptionally good natural endowments he had added unusual advantages in study and hospital practice, and the success he had already achieved gave assurance of a bright professional career in the future.

FREDERIC W. TAYLOR, M.D., *Secretary*.

Correspondence.

THE GIFT OF MRS. WOERISHOFFER TO THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

The following correspondence will explain itself:

NEW YORK, October 15th, 1886.

DR. EVERETT HERRICK, *Chairman Board of Trustees, New York Academy of Medicine*.

SIR,— In presenting a munificent donation to the New York Academy of Medicine, Mrs. Anna Woerishoffer was guided, first, by the great respect her late husband, Mr. Charles F. Woerishoffer always felt and expressed for medical science, and the medical profession, and second, by her conviction that it is better to aid and sustain such institutions of either science or charity as have already proved their faculty and right to exist by duration, results, and accumulated property, than to create new institutions.

After mature deliberation she came to the conclusion that the New York Academy of Medicine has, by its publications in the journals of the country, and in numerous volumes of transactions and bulletins, and by its regular stated and section meetings, contributed largely to the progress of medical science, and deserves eminently the name of a scientific body.

That after having existed forty years, collected an ever-increasing library, and accumulated considerable property, the New York Academy of Medicine holds out the promise of *perpetuity*.

That, by excluding politics and ethical strifes from its constitution and gatherings, it deserves the name of a