

that it was impossible to obtain the least contraction in it. This fact is of some importance in a hygienic point of view. It manifestly proves that alcohol introduced into the stomach in a state of vacuity dilates and paralyzes it. This observation corroborates the experiments performed by Dr. Laborde on numerous animals, and shows the danger of drinking alcohol on an empty stomach. This should be a warning to those who are in the habit of drinking wine or liquors on an empty stomach, as is frequently done with the view of exciting an appetite.

THE TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY BY BORAX AND BY BROMIDE OF POTASH.

PHILADELPHIA, January 20, 1890.

MR. EDITOR:—The paper on "The Results of Treatment of Epilepsy by Borax," by Dr. C. D. Jones, in the JOURNAL of January 9th, recalled cases which I had under treatment with borax in 1885. While in charge of the

State Asylum for the Insane of Rhode Island, which at that time contained four hundred and twenty-five patients, I placed twenty epileptics on ten grains of borax three times a day, and continued the treatment four months. For one month before giving this treatment, these twenty patients took no medicine, and a careful account was kept of the epileptic seizures. While the patients were taking the borax, the record showed no diminution in the number of attacks. The borax was given with compound tincture of cardamon. There were no gastric disturbances. After an interval of one month without any treatment, these same twenty epileptics were given twenty grains bromide of potash three times a day. The number of attacks were diminished in nearly all the cases, but the treatment had to be discontinued, either on account of the acne, or the feeble and demented condition of the patient. After the treatment was stopped, the epileptic attacks became as frequent as they were before the patients had taken the bromide, and they gradually returned to their former mental condition. Very truly,
H. J. POMROY, M.D.

REPORTED MORTALITY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 18, 1890.

Cities.	Estimated Population for 1889.	Reported Deaths in each.	Deaths under Five Years.	Percentage of Deaths from				
				Infectious Diseases.	Consumption.	Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Typhoid Fever.	Diph. & Croup.
New York	1,571,558	1151	302	6.87	34.15	1.39	.17	2.87
Philadelphia	1,040,245	777	164	8.40	21.84	.60	3.96	2.86
Chicago	830,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brooklyn	814,505	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baltimore	500,343	286	92	4.90	24.50	1.05	1.05	2.10
St. Louis	450,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Boston	413,567	345	60	7.25	40.02	.87	.29	5.51
New Orleans	250,000	115	30	13.92	7.83	8.70	—	2.61
Cincinnati	225,000	164	—	14.64	18.91	.61	3.66	5.49
Washington	225,000	150	44	6.66	40.26	—	1.32	1.32
Pittsburgh	230,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milwaukee	215,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Haven	82,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nashville	65,153	19	4	20.52	26.30	5.26	—	—
Charleston	60,145	24	9	4.16	—	4.16	—	—
Portland	40,000	39	6	2.56	33.28	—	—	2.56
Worcester	78,292	41	8	12.20	41.48	4.88	—	2.44
Lowell	71,518	67	17	5.44	37.00	—	2.96	—
Cambridge	65,552	36	6	8.34	25.02	2.78	—	5.56
Fall River	62,647	44	18	13.62	37.24	—	—	—
Lynn	53,334	29	2	—	41.40	—	—	—
Springfield	40,731	37	8	5.40	29.70	—	—	2.70
Lawrence	40,619	32	11	13.78	31.30	6.26	3.13	6.26
New Bedford	37,253	24	7	4.16	20.80	—	—	—
Holyoke	35,872	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Somerville	34,418	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salem	29,011	20	6	15.00	—	—	—	10.00
Brockton	28,813	4	1	—	50.00	—	—	—
Chelsea	28,167	19	6	5.26	42.08	5.26	—	—
Haverhill	26,058	17	1	—	17.64	—	—	—
Taunton	25,170	13	3	15.38	38.45	—	—	7.69
Gloucester	24,263	10	1	10.00	20.00	—	10.00	—
Newton	21,553	10	—	10.00	50.00	—	—	10.00
Malden	19,774	13	4	7.69	30.76	—	—	—
Fitchburg	17,534	16	3	—	18.76	—	—	—
Waltham	17,332	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pittsfield	15,502	4	0	50.00	—	—	—	—
Attleborough	15,425	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newburyport	13,875	13	3	24.07	30.76	—	—	15.38
Quincy	13,728	9	3	22.22	22.22	—	—	22.22

Deaths reported 3,431: under five years of age 820; principal infectious diseases (small-pox, measles, diphtheria, and croup, diarrhoeal diseases, whooping-cough, erysipelas and fevers) 284, acute lung diseases 1,051, consumption 513, influenza 145, diphtheria and croup 110, typhoid fever 51, diarrhoeal diseases 46, whooping-cough 29, scarlet fever 16, cerebro-spinal meningitis 12, measles 10, malarial fever and erysipelas 2.
From influenza, New York 89, Philadelphia 56. From whooping-cough, New York 14, Fall River 6, Cincinnati 3, Washington 2, Philadelphia, Lawrence, Salem and Pittsfield 1 each. From scarlet fever, New York 9, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Lowell, Springfield, Malden and Pittsfield 1 each. From cerebro-spinal meningitis, Washington 4, Cincinnati 3, Worcester 2, Philadelphia, New Bedford and Newburyport 1 each. From

measles, Philadelphia 5, New York and Cincinnati 2 each, Taunton 1. From malarial fever, New Orleans 3, New York 2, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Nashville 1 each. From erysipelas, New York and Boston 1 each.
In the twenty-eight greater towns of England and Wales with an estimated population of 9,715,559, for the week ending January 4th, the death-rate was 25.2. Deaths reported 4,889: infants under one year of age 913; acute diseases of the respiratory organs (London) 843, whooping-cough 166, measles 80, diphtheria 59, scarlet fever 52, fevers 34, diarrhoeal 32.
The death-rates ranged from 14.5 in Leicester to 32.8 in Manchester: Birmingham 23.5, Bradford 26.4, Hull 24.6, Leeds 27.1, Liverpool 27.5, London 28.0, Nottingham 17.7, Sheffield 24.4.
In Edinburgh 26.0, Glasgow 30.7, Dublin 34.9.

The meteorological record for the week ending Jan. 18, in Boston, was as follows, according to observations furnished by Sergeant J. W. Smith, of the United States Signal Corps:—

Week ending	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Relative Humidity.			Direction of Wind.		Velocity of Wind.		State of Weather. ¹		Rainfall.	
	Daily Mean.	Daily Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	8.00 A. M.	8.00 P. M.	Daily Mean.	8.00 A. M.	8.00 P. M.	8.00 A. M.	8.00 P. M.	8.00 A. M.	8.00 P. M.	Duration, Hrs. & Min.	Amount in Inches.
Saturday, Jan. 18, 1890.															
Sunday, . . . 12	30.16	41.0	58.0	24.0	83	92	89.0	W.	E.	10	22	F.	O.	4.30	.04
Monday, . . . 13	29.84	48.0	61.0	36.0	92	52	72.0	S.E.	W.	3	26	G.	C.	1.00	.02
Tuesday, . . . 14	30.62	32.0	38.0	26.0	45	47	46.0	W.	N.E.	8	8	C.	C.		
Wednesday, . . . 15	30.24	32.0	39.0	24.0	74	92	83.0	S.E.	S.W.	4	6	O.	O.	6.00	.32
Thursday, . . . 16	29.73	45.0	57.0	33.0	94	67	76.0	S.	W.	16	24	R.	C.	8.15	.38
Friday, . . . 17	30.51	20.0	26.0	13.0	52	61	56.0	N.W.	W.	12	6	O.	C.		
Saturday, . . . 18	30.46	32.0	42.	22.0	78	68	73.0	S.	N.E.	8	4	F.	C.		
Mean for Week.															

¹O., cloudy; C., clear; F., fair; G., fog; H., hazy; S., smoky; R., rain; T., threatening; N., snow.

OFFICIAL LIST OF CHANGES IN THE STATIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS SERVING IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, U. S. ARMY, FROM JANUARY 18, 1890, TO JANUARY 24, 1890.

By direction of the President, the Army Retiring Board appointed by War Department order dated January 8, 1890, from Headquarters of the Army, to meet at Los Angeles, Cal.; will meet for the examination of Major LEONARD Y. LORING, surgeon, at San Diego, Cal. S. O. 18, A. G. O., January 22, 1890.

By direction of the Secretary of War, the leave of absence granted Major CALVIN DE WITT, surgeon in S. O. 146, December 21, 1889, Department of Dakota, is extended to include February 27, 1890. Par. 5, S. O. 12, Headquarters of the Army, A. G. O., January 15, 1890.

Leave of absence for one month is hereby granted Captain WILLIAM G. SPENCER, assistant surgeon, Fort Bridger, Wyoming. Par. 1, S. O. 4, Department of the Platte, January 20, 1890.

By direction of the Secretary of War, the extension of leave of absence granted Captain Charles S. Black, assistant surgeon, in S. O. No. 1, 1890, Department of the Platte, is further extended to include April 30, 1890.

The resignation of Captain CHARLES S. BLACK, assistant surgeon has been accepted by the President, to take effect April 30, 1890. Par. 1, S. O. 18, A. G. O., January 12, 1890.

OFFICIAL LIST OF CHANGES IN THE MEDICAL CORPS OF THE U. S. NAVY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 25, 1890.

BERRYHILL, S. A., and WENTWORTH, A. R., assistant surgeons. Ordered to examination preliminary to promotion.

SOCIETY NOTICES.

BOSTON SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL OBSERVATION.—A Regular Meeting of the Society will be held at 19 Boylston Place, on Monday Evening, February 3d, at 8 o'clock.

Readers: Dr. J. T. Bowen, "An Instance of Feigned Eruption." Dr. M. H. Richardson, "Suppurative Inflammation of the Knee-Joint Treated by Drainage through the Popliteal Space." T. F. SHERMAN, M.D., Secretary.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY.—A Meeting of this Society will be held at 12 o'clock m., on Wednesday, February 5th, in the hall of the Medical Library Association, No. 19 Boylston Place, Boston.

A paper will be presented by M. A. Adams, Esq., of Boston, on "Medical Expert Testimony."

Members of the Legal and Medical Professions are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

W. H. TAYLOR, Recording Secretary.

OBTUARY. WILLIAM BLAKE EAGER, M.D.

Dr. William Blake Eager, a leading physician of Middletown, Conn., died January 18th, from pneumonia, at the age of sixty-five. He was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1848, and practised in New York City. He was chief of the staff at Blackwell's Island for a time, and then held the place of Professor of Gynecology at Bellevue Hospital. When the War broke out he entered the army as a surgeon. He has resided in Middletown since 1874.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Laws Regulating the Practice of Medicine in North Carolina. Enucleation of Tuberculous Glands. By Thos. W. Kay, M.D., Scranton, Pa. Reprint. 1889.

Report of the Surgeon-General of the Army, to the Secretary of War for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 1889.

Annual Report of the President and Treasurer of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, December 11, 1889.

Transactions of the American Ophthalmological Society. Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting. New London, Conn. 1889.

On the Treatment of Diabetes by Free Phosphorus. By Balmanno Squire, M.B., Lond. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1889.

Inequality of Tax Valuation in Massachusetts. Delivered by J. H. Benton, Jr., before the Beacon Society of Boston, November 23, 1889.

Permanent Exposition of the Three Americas. Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, of the United States House of Representatives.

Laparo-Hystéropexie contre le Prolapsus Utérin (Nouveau Traitement Chirurgical de la Chute de l'utérus). Par Paul Dumoret. Avec 8 figures dans le texte. Paris: Aux Bureaux Du Progrès Médical. 1889.

The American Academy of Medicine - Its Objects; its Signs of Promise and its Obstacles; its Field of Work; and Some Suggestions Looking to an Increase of its Efficiency. By Leartus Connor, M.D., A.B. Detroit, Mich. Reprint. 1889.

History and Pathology of Vaccination. Vol. I, A Critical Inquiry; Vol. II, Selected Essays. Edited by Edgar M. Crookshank, M.B., Professor of Comparative Pathology and Bacteriology, and Fellow of Kings College, London, etc., Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co. 1890.

Text-Book of Medical Chemistry for Medical and Pharmaceutical Students and Practitioners. By Elias H. Bartley, B.S., M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology, and Lecturer on Diseases of Children, in Long Island College Hospital, etc. Second Edition, revised and enlarged. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co. 1890.

A System of Physical Culture. By Carl Betz, Director and Supervisor of Physical Training, Public Schools, Kansas City, Mo. Part I. Free Gymnastics. Third Edition. Part II. Gymnastic Tactics: Training exercises, marching, running, hopping and marching combined with free gymnastics. Part III. Light Gymnastics: Poles, dumb-bells, rings, wand and clubs.

Massage and the Original Swedish Movements: their application to various diseases of the body. By Kurre W. Ostrom. From the Royal University of Upsala, Sweden; Instructor in Massage and Swedish Movements in the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphia Polyclinic and College for Graduates in Medicine, etc. Illustrated. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co. 1890.

Three Americas Exposition. Arguments before the Quadri-Centennial Committee of the United States Senate, in support of Senate bills, Nos. 1839 and 1135, each entitled, "A Bill to provide for a Three Americas and World's Exposition at the National Capital in 1892." By Alex. D. Anderson, Secretary of the National Board of Promotion; Myron M. Parker, President of the Washington Board of Trade; John W. Powell, Director of the United States Geological Survey; Felix Agnus, Editor of the Baltimore American. With Introductory Remarks by John W. Douglass, President of the Board of District Commissioners. 1890.