made to the discrepancy of opinion among the consultants. The recovery of the patient, contrary to the prognosis of the first consultant, could not possibly have injured the reputation of the second consultant—quite the reverse. The natural conclusion of the patient and friends would have been that, as Dr. Johnson was wrong in his prognosis, he was, most probably, wrong in his treatment of the case—ergo, the recovery of the patient was owing to the second consultant. Taking it in every point of view, then, we conceive that, unless upon some very extraordinary occasion, where great difference of opinion obtains as to treatment, there should be no disclosure of such opinions to the friends. If great discrepancy of opinion, upon some important point of treatment, occurred, we think it would be more prudent for one of the parties to retire, or to request a third opinion to decide the question.”

I have not a word to add, sir—I like to quote from good authority, when I find my own views written out in better language than I can command for them myself.

HEART OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

February 22, 1836.

EPIDEMIC MEASLES.

BY MARSHALL S. PERRY, M.D. PHYSICIAN OF THE HOUSE OF INDUSTRY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE following is an abstract, taken by Mr. Dorr, the resident student, from the daily record of 52 cases of measles, which occurred at the House of Industry in South Boston, during the months of November and December, 1835.

The measles have been uncommonly prevalent and fatal during the last four months in the city of Boston. The greater portion of those children who have been reported as having died of this disease, died of pneumonitis, which followed the eruption. At the House of Industry, inflammation of the mucous membrane of the large intestines was much the most formidable disease. In fact, to treat the cases there among young children with cathartics, was out of the question. Active cathartic medicines almost invariably induced diarrhœa of a severe character. Can this difference between the prominent local disease among children in private families and those in the asylum be owing to the difference in diet? Those who had bronchitis and pneumonitis were treated with ipecac. mustard poultices, warm baths and local bleeding in the early stages of the disease, and with some soothing expectorant medicine after the inflammatory symptoms had subsided. The two cases reported as having died of gangrene, were examined, and the mucous membrane of the large intestines was found softened, and redder than natural. This was the only morbid appearance found in the viscera. In the case of pneumonitis which proved fatal, both lungs were found diseased. Those cases that were not complicated with local inflammation, required little or no treatment.

CASES OF MEASLES AT THE HOUSE OF INDUSTRY, SOUTH BOSTON.

REMARKS.

Number.	Age.	Name.	When seized with measles.	Result.	No. of deaths.	REMARKS.
1	12 years	Harney, Mary Ann	1835. Oct. 27	1835. died Nov. 3	1	Was first taken with croup. Measles came on, subsided, and then croup came on again, of which it died. A false membrane had formed.
23	"	Saunders, James	Nov. 1	cured	1	Bronchial affection the severest. Not confined to bed more than six hours at a time.
33	"	Burns, James	Nov. 7	cured	2	Bronchitis was the severest affection. Still unwell, but recovering. Eruption left dark livid spots on face, which took on the character of small depositions of pus.
44	"	McGrath, John	Nov. 6	cured	3	Scrofulous habit.
63	1-2	Donnahue, Catha.	Nov. 7	cured	3	Bronchial affection was severest.
63	1-2	Bowen, Margaret	Nov. 7	died Nov. 21	4	Had severe laryngitis with pneumonitis at commencement of attack. After removal to Asylum, was afflicted for several weeks with many large abscesses, which suppurated freely.
73	"	Marshall, Susan	Nov. 7	cured	4	Had very severe pneumonitis at commencement of attack. After removal to Asylum, was afflicted for several weeks with many large abscesses, which suppurated freely.
8	1-2	Kearns, Thomas	Nov. 8	died Dec. 5	3	Of a scrofulous habit. Bowel complaint from commencement—of this he died.
9	2	Brennin, Mary	Nov. 8	cured	5	Considerable febrile action and aphthae on tongue for some weeks after removal to Asylum.
10	1-2	Burns, Patrick	Nov. 8	died Dec. 23	4	Bowels were diseased from commencement. Extreme marasmus at last.
11	6	Watworth, Elizabeth	Nov. 8	cured	6	Still feeble. Is of feeble constitution—nervous, irritable. Bronchitis and intestinal trouble.
12	"	Kinny, Michael	Nov. 8	cured	7	Said by mother to have had measles in Ireland. Had disease mildly.
13	"	O'Donnell, Thomas	Nov. 8	died Nov. 22	5	Had pneumonitis; subsequently bowels became diseased, and of this he died.
14	"	Matthews, John	Nov. 9	died Nov. 13	6	Had during summer diarrhoea and prolapsus ani—bronchial affection during measles not very severe—from commencement bowel complaint—at last, gangrene of penis.
15	1-2	Cannfield, Thomas	Nov. 8	cured	8	Bronchial affection severest—but had measles very slight.
16	"	Flaherty, Bridget	Nov. 9	cured	9	Bronchitis, with some intestinal trouble—neither very severe.
17	"	Finn, Bridget	Nov. 9	cured	10	Laryngitis severe at commencement—bowel affection slight.
18	"	Finn, Mary Ann	Nov. 9	cured	11	Laryngitis severe at commencement—bowel affection slight.
19	"	Hanniffe, Michael	Nov. 9	died Dec. 29	7	Pulmonary trouble never severe. After first week, there were marks of severe intestinal trouble—discharges always fetid—gangrene of cheek at last.
20	3	Glinn, Mary	Nov. 10	cured	12	Still sick—scrofulous habit—some inflammatory affection of lungs now; but bowels have been more diseased than other organs.
21	1-2	Brooks, Henry	Nov. 10	cured	13	Bronchial affection much the severest. Bowels not any affected.
22	"	Bennett, Bridget	Nov. 10	cured	14	Bronchitis the severest affection; but no one organ suffered much.
23	1-2	Bentley, Mary Ann	Nov. 10	cured	13	Pretty severe bronchitis. Bowels moderately loose, say two dejections daily.
24	"	Flaherty, Maria	Nov. 10	cured	15	Bowel complaint the severest affection, but not very bad; yet, though returned to Asylum, he was very feeble for a long time, and when taken from House was quite feeble. Bowel complaint severest affection; and though not so bad as many others, she is now among the puny ones.
25	"	Harrenden, Rosa	Nov. 10	cured	16	Cough quite severe, but mostly confined to larynx. Bowel complaint severest affection; and though not so bad as many others, she is now among the puny ones.
26	"	McCabe, John	Nov. 10	cured	17	Last summer much emaciated—had diarrhoea. Had measles very slightly, but diarrhoea has troubled him more or less ever since.
27	"	Ring, Catherine	Nov. 11	cured	18	Still sick. Ulceration of pudentum of considerable extent—now nearly healed, but discharge fetid. Considerable emaciation—bowels mainly affected during measles.
28	"	Bannin, Mary	Nov. 11	cured	19	Bronchitis was quite severe. No unusual looseness of bowels. Cough urgent at present.
29	"	Connell, John	Nov. 11	cured	19	Very large abscess on head since removal to Asylum. Severe laryngitis at commencement. Calomel produced free catharsis for two days, then disappeared.
30	1-2	Castello, Edward	Nov. 11	died Nov. 27	8	Had constant diarrhoea from commencement of attack—hardly any affection of lungs.

CASES OF MEASLES AT THE HOUSE OF INDUSTRY, SOUTH BOSTON.

REMARKS.

Number.	Age.	Name.	When seized with measles.	Result.	No. of deaths.
			1835.		
314	"	Marroth, Michael	Nov. 11	cured	20
324	"	Delany, Margaret	Nov. 12	cured	21
334	4 years	Murphy, Francis	Nov. 13	cured	22
342	"	May, John	Dec. 7	cured	23
354	"	Elley, James	Nov. 14	cured	24
3691-3	"	*Klany, Thomas	Nov. 16	cured	25
3741-3	"	*Aylward, Wm. T.	Nov. 19	cured	26
385	"	*Hogan, Patrick	Nov. 19	cured	27
395	"	*Meiers, Henry	Nov. 19	cured	28
401	"	*Canfield, James	Dec. 7	cured	29
413	"	Bowen, Cornelius	Nov. 20	cured	30
422	"	Hamilton, John	Nov. 19	cured	31
4319	"	*Solo, Joseph	Nov. 20	cured	32
4451-3	"	*Willoughby, Lyman	Nov. 21	cured	33
456	mos.	Douglas, Eneine	Dec. 7	cured	34
461-2 yrs	"	Kerrin, William	Nov. 24	cured	35
471	"	O'Donnell, Margaret	Nov. 22	cured	36
481	"	*Granton, Elizabeth	Nov. 22	cured	37
493	"	*Lawrence, Lucy	Nov. 25	cured	38
5011-3	"	*Lambert, Ann	Nov. 25	cured	39
5114	mos.	Duffie, Peter	Dec. 8	cured	40
525	"	Huddleston, Ann	Dec. 9	cured	41

Whole number of those who have had measles, 52

Of whom were cured - - - - 41

" died - - - - 8

" still sick - - - - 3

Of those who died, six died from intestinal disease—or if from ulceration in two cases, the mucous membrane of intestines was softened sufficiently to cause death—and one from pulmonary disease.
Of those returned to Asylum as cured, but who were feeble for some time, all these, with one exception, had a diarrhoea from one to two weeks; and two or three are now so disposed by the least irregularity in diet, &c.

Of those who recovered,—Many of the children, especially nursing children, had measles very slightly. Some of the older children, also, were so mildly affected, that in the following list no account is made of them. Of those who had disease, in a severe form, complicated with measles—bronchitis, 15; laryngitis, 5; pneumonitis, 4; bowel complaint, not severe, yet the most prominent disease, 5. With bronchitis, in several cases, some pneumonitis was connected; but the bronchial affection was the severest, and accordingly they are stated as having had bronchitis. None who had bronchitis, or laryngitis, or pneumonitis alone, without any other complication, even if it were severe, died. The 4 stated above as having had bowel complaint more prominently than any other affection, had it rather as the result of irritating medicine, than as an untoward disposition in the intestinal canal to become seriously diseased; for often when those medicines were withheld, and soothing medicines given, the disease abated. Where bowel complaint started at commencement of attack of measles, it was almost always unmanageable; and in those who died, four had it severely from the first. In these cases the autopsies showed an almost complete destruction of the mucous membrane of the large intestines, and, in two instances, of the stomach also. This organ was in two cases found much corrugated. The boys who were at the Boys' Asylum, went through the different stages of measles with less serious complication than the smaller children, and when the complication was severe (as it in one case surely was), they seemed to have more foundation for active treatment. They are those against whose names a * is placed.

Of those who died,—Bowen, Margaret—both parents drunken and dissolute. Had been in asylum 6 months. Apparently pretty healthy. Harney, M. A.—father dissolute; mother drinks sometimes. Had been in asylum 1 week. Very delicate and rather feeble. Kearns, Thomas—father not known; mother dissolute. Had been in asylum 5 months. Very feeble constitution; ill last summer. Burns, Patrick—father died on passage; mother healthy. Had been in asylum 9 months. Very feeble constitution; ill in September and October. O'Donnell, Thomas—father supposed drunkard; mother crazy. Had been in asylum 9 months. Strong, healthy; very large head. Matthews, John—father supposed drunkard; mother decent woman. Had been in asylum 4 months. Very miserable constitution; sick all summer. Hanniffee, Michael—parents dissolute. Had been in asylum 5 months. Rather feeble, but at times active. Castello, Edward—nothing known of parents. Had been in asylum 9 months. Thin; pale countenance; not much known.

Of those still living, but sick,—Glinn, Mary—nothing is known of her parents. Ring, Catherine—mother drunkard; father, nothing known. She came in with measles, in a collapsed state, from cold, exposure, &c. McGrath, John—parents dissolute. In language of Superintendent, "Conceived in gin and brought forth in alcohol."

General Remarks.—The asylum is a wooden building, two stories high, separate from the main building. It is divided into four principal rooms besides wash-rooms, &c.; two of these large rooms are for boys,

and two for the smaller children, both boys and girls ; two of these rooms on the lower floor are school rooms, measuring each 38+28 ft. and about 12 ft. in height, and two in the upper floor for sleeping rooms, measuring each 38+28 ft. and about eleven in height. In this building all the children reside, with the exception of infants, and those so young as to require immediate attention. The sleeping rooms are well ventilated. There is no work allowed to be performed in this building that can render the air impure, or incommode the children. None but children and two female teachers reside in the building. There are play-grounds in the rear of the building, where the boys are allowed exercise in summer. The food for the children is cooked at the main building. The eating-hall for the children is in a small building between the asylum and the main building. It may with safety be said that there is not a better building, for the purposes to which it is appropriated, than this asylum, in the country. For it we are indebted to the exertions of A. Simonds, Esq. present Superintendent, and some of the present Directors.

The diet of the children is as follows :—Breakfasts every day—milk thickened with wheat flour—bread, 2-3 wheat and 1-3 corn meal. This porridge is about 1-3 milk, 2-3 water. Suppers every day—milk and water boiled ; about 1-2 milk, 1-2 water—bread cut fine and put in as they wish it. Dinners—Sunday, baked beef, mashed potatoes and bread. Monday, stewed beans and bread. Tuesday, beef soup, mashed potatoes and bread. Wednesday, boiled rice ; or minced meat and bread ; or mush and molasses. Thursday, same as on Tuesday. Friday, minced fish and potatoes and bread. Saturday, same as on Tuesday.

The children are clad in summer in blue and white calico dresses ; and in winter in flannel dresses with sufficient under clothes. They have woollen socks and shoes in winter, and go barefoot in summer. They are washed, in winter, every Saturday evening, over the whole body, and in summer oftener. The boys, during warm weather, in addition to this, are allowed to bathe in the open sea once or twice a week, according to the weather. Their hands and faces are washed certainly once a day, and very frequently much oftener. Their heads, especially those of the smaller children, are combed several times a week, sometimes daily. Their garments are changed every week as a rule ; but those of the smaller children once, and perhaps twice a day, according to circumstances. Every child, when it enters the House, is immediately examined, and if any appearances are found of any contagious disease, it is not allowed to join the children at the asylum, till such disease is cured ; if not, after being well cleansed, it is permitted to enter the asylum. Such are some of the main facts with reference to the place of residence and cleanliness of the children who are residents at the asylum.

More than two-thirds of these children are the offspring of debauched, or drunken, or half idiotic parents. Of those who died of measles, sequelæ, or of some disease complicated with measles, the most of them had parents of this character, as will be seen under the proper head. The usual number of children residing at the asylum is from 100 to 120. One case, No. 43, Joses Solo, was in the Men's Colored House, so called, and was the only one among the inmates, properly so called, who

had measles. So far as could be ascertained, he had had no communication with the children, had not been at the asylum; nor had any of the children been near the building where he resided. From Men's Colored House to asylum is about 270 feet.

February, 1836.

ON THE USE OF A VEGETABLE DIET.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I sometimes take notes, and make remarks in my note-book, respecting what I find upon the pages of your Journal. The note made after reading Mr. S. Graham's answer to Dr. Bell's Prize Essay, is from Dr. Johnson—viz. *Bolder words and more timorous meaning I never saw*. Archimedes said that he could move this world if he only had another world to stand on. But to attempt to move the world, or its well-grounded custom of using animal food as a part of diet, so long and so well established, both by nature and by the Bible, and that with nothing to stand upon, is peculiarly Utopian. There is nothing in Mr. Graham's answer to the Prize Essay, worth notice, except that he makes Dr. Bell give up the argument derived from comparative anatomy, of man being a carnivorous animal. Whether Dr. Bell meant to be so understood, he can best decide himself. But upon this point, we would observe, that we should make man the standard, and as the organs of other animals approximate his, we should decide upon their carnivorous propensities. For, from his very earliest history, in the first chapter of that book—the oldest book in the known world—which gives an account of his creation, and that of the globe, we find that he had dominion given him over the fish of the sea, the first of all things whatever. Now why should fish have been made at all, and this dominion over them given, unless they were designed for the food of man? We find the dominion of man extended, it is true, immediately afterwards, over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth; but fish preceded the whole. The fowl might have been, and is, useful for its feathers, and beasts for their tallow and skins; but not so of edible fish. These have neither feathers nor fat.

But that the first man made an early use of other animal food than fish, is not lacking of that evidence which should be paramount. For in the same year in which he was created, we read of Adam and his wife being clothed in *coats of skins*. And it does not appear that these skins were taken off for the purpose of clothing, but that animals had been previously skinned for some other purpose. That this purpose was that their flesh might be used for food, is the only one that seems probable. We know that some commentators here talk of sacrifices; but no institution of this kind had at that time been given, nor could sacrifices have preceded sin. And when sacrifices were afterwards established, the sacrificed animals were used as food by the priests and their families, thus sanctifying the use of animal food; and this use of animals, was also sanctioned by that law, which drew the line between beasts clean and