nation, rejected as useless? 2. In man, many arterial hemorrhages also cease either spontaneously or under the exertion of mere compression, without our being obliged to have recourse to the ligature; so that it is easy to attribute to a pretended hæmostatic substance a result which takes place quite independently of its employment.

"I have neither cause nor desire to throw any doubt upon the value of M. Bonjean's experiments: but practice has been so often deceived by similar announcements, that it behooves the Academy to accept them with due reserve. I must add, that the practitioners who have tried *ergotine* or the *ergot of rye* have as yet derived nothing conclusive from its use. When, in *uterine hemorrhage*, the ergot proves useful, it does so by inducing contraction of the uterus, and not by any special action it exerts on the blood or on the arteries. Thus we see the question of surgical hæmostatics is at once a very complex and a delicate one; and we should not receive facts concerning it without a certain degree of distrust, and only give them a very limited publicity, until they have been tested by a more mature examination."—*Med. Chirurg. Rev.*, Oct., from *Comptes Rendus*, 6th July, 1846.

12. *Modus operandi of Opium in the treatment of hemorrhage.*—By Dr. W. GRIFFIN.—"Of all the wonderful influences exerted by opium, that by which it sustains the powers of life when sinking from hemorrhage, and arrests the flow of blood, is the most extraordinary. When after severe uterine hemorrhage, the countenance is sunk, the eye glassy and hollow, the lips blanched, the skin cold, and the whole person corpse-like, when the pulse is almost gone at the wrist, when every beat of the heart is scarcely perceptible, and stimulants, even brandy or rectified spirits, are either vomited or uninfluential, there remains yet one remedy capable of restoring the patient to life, and that is opium. I believe its power of saving life under these circumstances depends principally on its specific property of producing congestion in the brain. That amount of congestion by which it occasions apoplexy, when given in large doses to persons in health, seems only sufficient to sustain the necessary tension of the cerebral vessels in those who are dying from hemorrhage. Persons die in cases of hemorrhage, not so much from mere debility of the heart's action, as from the loss of nervous powers in the brain consequent to it. The opium in such cases not only stimulates the heart's action, but restores a sufficient degree of tension to the vessels of the brain to prevent faintness; and, by the judicious repetition of the remedy, life is preserved on the very borders of death. There are no cases in which opium can be given so freely and so fearlessly as in these. When the danger is imminent, five grains may be given at the first dose, and two or three every hour or half hour afterwards, until the pulse becomes distinct, the breathing easier, and the tossing about in the bed is allayed. It is hardly necessary to observe, that in such cases, in conjunction with the use of opium, the administration of warm wine or brandy, with heat to the extremities, is highly useful, if not essential."—*Medical and Physical Problems*.

13. *Castor Oil—Substitute for.*—The mildness and certainty of operation of castor oil give it peculiar advantages in the treatment of many diseases; but very often its tendency to produce vomiting prevents it from being employed. To remedy this inconvenience, M. PAROLA proposes the substitution of an extract, an ethereal, and an alcoholic tincture of castor-oil seeds, for the oil itself. The result of his experiments on himself and on numerous sick and convalescent individuals is as follows:—1st. That the ethereal and alcoholic tinctures have a purgative action four times as strong as the oil obtained by expression, and that they are not so apt to produce vomiting, nor so irritant as the ordinary oil. 2d. That these new preparations remain unalterable for a long period without reference to climate or season. 3d. That the ethero-alcoholic extract possesses a purgative action comparatively weaker than the marc or pulp from which it is extracted, proving that the seeds contain a principle which is insoluble in alcohol or ether. 4th. The advantage of the new preparations, so far as relates to their not causing vomiting, is easily explained by the smallness of the dose in which they are administered.—*Gazette Medicale de Paris*, Feb. 7th, 1846.