practised as a remedy in mental diseases. Setons are very often used by the tribes of the Steppes. Cauterization with iron or copper needles red-hot, with which they pierce tumors which have not yielded to other means, is sometimes very efficacious. The moxa is one of the means in most frequent use ; it is made with cotton thread : before applying it, the skin is covered with a layer of the white of egg, of isinglass, or of strong glue. Moxas are also made with hemp, flax, and amadou: the Kalmucs employ for this object the centaury of Siberia, (*centaury Sibirica*,) the down of the seeds of several species of willow, &c. The Mongoles, previous to the application of the moxa, sprinkle the place with a thin layer of potters' earth or clay. The Ostiaks and the Tungusians prepare the moxa with the woolly and yellow fibres which are found in the fissures in the bark of the birch. In Siberia, the down of several species of mugwort is employed for the same use. To apply the moxa, they seek for the least sensible part of the skin by means of a burning coal, which serves for a trial.

In very obstinate tetters, and in very inveterate itch, many tribes of the Steppes use, in the form of cataplasm, a little insect akin to the *meloe*. Aquatic hemlock and mezereon serve as vesicatories in Siberia.

Pessaries are made of soap, of hardened tallow, or of the flour of rye, with simple syrup or honey: the Kalmucs form them with honey and common salt. In obstinate constipation they place the patient on a sandy and dry eminence, and apply to his stomach a smooth flint, which has been made very hot.

The principal cosmestics of these nations are the fresh juice of Solomon's seal, (*convallaria polygonatum*,) decoctions of the bark of *Daphne mezereum*, *echinum vulgare*, &c.

The obstetric art comprises many very singular practices. Amongst the Kalmucs, when the child is on the point of being born, the midwife gives a signal, by which the husband and his friends posted near the house are apprised, and discharge their fire-arms : this unexpected explosion, and the fright of the mother, are supposed to assist in hastening the delivery.

Persons bitten by a tarantula, or stung by a scorpion, are first drenched with milk, and then swathed in a basket, which is poised and whirled in the air by means of a cord, until abundant vomiting and profuse perspiration are induced.

V.

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MEDICAL SPOON.

A brief Description of this newly-invented Instrument,

By CHANDLER ROBBINS, M.D.

HAVING procured one of these spoons from the maker, I take the liberty to give the profession a brief description of it through the medium of the Medical Journal. The object for which it was invented by Dr. A. T. Thomson, of London, was to administer medicine to infants and children, to persons so ill as to require food or physic whilst in a horizontal posture, and to maniacs.

A general idea of this instrument may be obtained by compar-

ing it to a common spoon covered entirely over, excepting only a small space near the point through which the contained liquid is to flow. If such a spoon were filled, its contents would evidently be prevented from flowing into the mouth by the pressure of the air on the exposed surface. This evil is avoided by making the handle a hollow cylinder opening into the bowl, as represented in the engraving below.—For the purpose of introducing the mixture to be given, more readily into the spoon, a lid is fixed into the cover, which may be raised and shut again at pleasure.

When used, the lid C is to be closed tight on the liquid which has been introduced; the handle is then to be taken between the middle and fore fingers of the right hand, which fingers should press on the guard B; the thumb being then placed on the open end of the handle A, the instrument will be firmly supported.

When the bowl of the spoon is introduced into the mouth of the child, it should be pressed down on the tongue, and the thumb being then removed, the medicine will flow readily out at D, and pass into the stomach.

The advantages of this invention are so obvious as to need no illustration.

SKETCHES OF PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

DYSPHAGIA,

Attended by very unusual and singular Circumstances.

IN a late number of the Archives Générales de Médecine, is reported a singular case of this disease, the precise nature of which it was not found easy to determine. The patient, a man about sixty years of age, while swallowing a large piece of meat, suddenly experienced a sense of

stricture, as if the morsel had been arrested at the entrance of the œsophagus. In a short time he began to experience a constant desire of deglutition, but without the power, notwithstanding his continual efforts, to swallow the smallest portion of saliva or of any liquid which was offered him. He was incessantly making the motions preparatory to the act of deglutition, and when fatigue