that time to the present, now five months, he has had regular and easy evacuations of urine, never having been obliged to use the catheter since the medicine was resumed.

I have seen good effects from the use of *nux vomica* in relaxations of the muscular fibres, in dyspepsia, flatulency and loss of muscular tone in the stomach and bowels, as well as in general and partial palsy, but this is the first instance in which I have known it restore healthy power to a palsied bladder.

S. B. WOODWARD.

Worcester, Ms., May, 1844.

EFFECTS OF OPIUM ON INFANTS.

By Charles Taylor, M.R.O.S.

FEBRUARY 25th, 1844, about 1, P. M.—Mr. C——'s infant, a fine little girl, *æt.* 10 months, having been allowed to play with some pills (*Pil. sapon. c. opi, gr. v., ext. colo. co. gr. vii., in pil. iv.*) which were silvered over, the nurse observed the child making a noise, as if swallowing something with difficulty, and suspected some of the pills were taken. One pill was found in the child's dress, and one in the pill-box, but there were four, and after sweeping the room, and the most careful examination, the other two were not found. I was present within a quarter of an hour; the child was then playing, cheerful, and in perfectly good health; however, from the account of the case, I thought it right to act, although in doubt. The opium swallowed being in the form of pills, and the pills having been made a long time, instead of using the stomach pump I administered immediately half a scruple of the sulphate of zinc dissolved in a very small quantity of warm water; this not producing vomiting in a quarter of an hour, I gave *ant. pot. tart., gr. ii.*, which was repeated every ten minutes to the fourth time. Tickling the posterior fauces with a feather was also had recourse to, with occasional draughts of warm water, but all without avail. About half an hour after the last dose of tartar emetic, when almost giving up in despair of causing vomiting, it suddenly occurred, and by the use of warm water was then kept up. The food of the day was returned, and with it some dark substance which proved to be portions of the opium pills; one piece the size of half a pill, the others divided and mixed with the food, having the smell of opium. Pieces of the silver leaf were also found, leaving now no doubt, and from the quantity showing most probably that two pills were swallowed. After the vomiting had subsided, a teaspoonful of castor oil was given, which in the evening acted, and no appearance of the pills in the motion, which was healthy. The child did not appear drowsy; in fact, its parents thought it more lively than usual. Slept comfortably during the night, and was quite well next morning, neither suffering from the opium, nor from the emetic remedies that had been administered.

The only remarks suggested are these: 1st, the large doses of emetics

which were given for a time without success ; this may be accounted for, doubtless, by the action of the opium on the nerves of the stomach, but yet there was an absence of any other symptom on the nervous system ; and 2d, the total absence of any irritation produced either by the zinc or tartar emetic on the mucous membranes afterwards.—*London Medical Gazette.*

THE POSTHUMOUS FAME OF MEDICAL MEN.

WE all know what gods we are in the eyes of our patients—when they are seriously ill ; how little they think of us, with what slender courtesies they treat us—when they have got quite well. The eagerly expected visit, the confidence in, the dependence on us, are not more remarkable in the first case, than are in general the indifference, the coldness, the want of sympathy, with us in the second. The truth is, that the wealthy and the great are generally afraid of the accomplished and philosophical physician or surgeon, intimately acquainted with the springs and motives of human action as he necessarily is. They have a higher nature in their presence, which over-crows them ; and human pride and human infirmity cannot stand the proof ; they shrink before it, and rather dislike and fear, than love it. This feeling is at the bottom of the preference which the aristocracy of all countries, and of England in especial, so frequently show for ignorance and blind empiricism—for the anointings of a St. John Long, the abracadabra of the druggist Hahnemann, the duckings of the peasant Priessnitz, &c. &c.

With the same measure that the world are disposed to mete to us during our lives, do they still continue to measure to us after our deaths. The fame of the medical man is not even so enduring as that of the great actor. By what strong memorial do the public cherish the remembrance of the gifted Abernethy ? They name a biscuit after him. Of the brilliant Cooper ? some speculative druggist has christened a pill by his name. Of the great Dupuytren ? a perfumer embalms his public memory with a pomatum for the hair ! Sic transit gloria ! Mr. Abernethy always estimated posthumous fame at what it is probably truly worth, and no more : “ Were I thirsty,” he would say, “ I would give the posthumous fame of Buonaparte, could I command it, for a drink of small beer ! ” Brave old John, kind-hearted, eccentric old man ! Nor shall thy fame for better things than biscuits yet die out from amongst us thy brethren, for some considerable time to come ! Though thy kindred wrote trash upon thy tomb-stone, and the bakers have kneaded thee up with their dough, the influence thou hadst on medicine will survive when the memory and the knowledge of thy being shall have passed away.

And this brings us to the point we were driving at. There is no sure abiding place for us here below—whether in the body, or in that kind of spirituality which we entitle posthumous fame. He who did this or that passes away ; the knowledge of him who did it is lost in the night of ages ;