have elaborated not less than one drachm daily for the last fifteen years, amounting in all to a little more than forty-five pounds.

I have had no opportunity of ascertaining the chemical composition of this formation, as no analysis has been made; but judging from appearance, there is a difference in the constitution of the portions voided at different times, as they are somewhat various in color, as well as in texture and size.

For some years the habits of Catalano have been sedentary. He lives mostly on vegetable food, with a small proportion of animal broth, and takes a few glasses of gin and water daily. He also drinks freely of melon and flax-seed tea, and also elm and other mucilaginous diuretic preparations. But the article from which he derives the most benefit, is the Harlem oil, which he takes in doses of twenty-five drops every other night. This medicine, he assures me, not only acts as a diuretic, but prevents the formation of calculi of large size, and that when he takes it the most freely the concretions are voided in the form of sand.

I have regretted that this patient could not be placed under the inspection of Dr. Charles T. Jackson, of Boston, who has devoted much attention to this subject, as it seems to afford a favorable opportunity for ascertaining, by a series of experiments, the influence of medicine, and the different kinds of diet, &c. upon the formation and chemical constitution of urinary calculi.

Washington City, May 8, 1839.

CASE OF ACUTE HEPATITIS.

BY N. H. ALLEN, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE following case will fully illustrate the importance of keeping constantly in mind the old adage, "*nil desperandum*," and will also show the influence which calomel, in large doses, is able to effect over the diseases of the liver.

On the 28th of June, 1838, I visited John Foster, and found him laboring under a severe attack of acute hepatitis. He was a laborer of about 38 years of age, and previous to his illness he had been at work on the breakwater then being built at the entrance of Portland harbor. Three days before I saw him, he had received a hurt in the region of the liver, but still continued to work during the whole of one day, regardless of the injury. On the day after the receipt of the hurt, he was attacked with severe pain in the liver, accompanied with violent vomiting. The pain and other alarming symptoms continued to increase, and on the third day of his sickness, when I saw him, he was in the following condition. Every part of the surface of his body was literally as yellow as an orange; his countenance wore a bloated and deathly aspect; his pulse was exceedingly rapid, and so feeble as to be scarcely perceptible; the tongue was very thickly coated with a dark-brown fur; his bowels had not been moved since the receipt of the injury, and he was complaining of the most excruciating pain through the region of

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the liver and back; the region below the liver was very much swollen, and excessively tender to the touch, and his back and whole system were so much affected that he could not bear the least movement, without crying out as loud as his now nearly exhausted powers of life would permit. Indeed, he appeared, in everything, like a dying man, and had already been given up to his fate by the attending physician.

Under these circumstances his case looked desperate indeed, and seemed to call for the exertion of something more than human skill to snatch him from the grave. At first I declined doing anything for him, looking upon his case as an irremediable one; but at the urgent solicitation of his friends, I consented to prescribe. He had already been bled to a great extent, and the region of the liver had been blistered. I therefore took no more blood, but ordered ten grains of calomel to be administered to him every hour, and hot fomentations to be applied to his side and back.

29th. I saw him again, and found him somewhat relieved of pain. Ordered the calomel to be continued, with the addition of ten grains of jalap to each dose.

30th. The calomel had not as yet operated as a purge; mouth a little affected. Ceased giving the calomel; ordered an injection, and gave a dose of castor oil, to which was added one drop of the croton oil. The next day, when I saw him, at two o'clock, P. M., he had had free evacuations from the bowels; pain in the region of the liver nearly subsided; and, indeed, he appeared better in every sense of the word.

From this time he continued to improve daily, and in two weeks he was able to go out. His skin, however, wore a yellow tinge a long while, it being more than a month before it assumed its natural color.

In this case more than an ounce of calomel was given; and it appeared to be the chief agent, the *magnum remedium*, although by some it may be called the *anceps remedium*, in effecting the cure.

Gray, Me., April, 1839.

EFFECTS OF TOBACCO ON THE VOICE OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—The use of tobacco, I perceive, is exciting some attention in the Journal. I should like to make a few remarks, and if I do not agree with those who as moral reformers proscribe it as a useless, disgusting and dirty practice, absolutely deleterious and destructive to health, it is not because I am an advocate for its use; for it is a very disgusting sight, whether from association, prejudice, or whatever other cause, to my eyes. But truth is to be followed, wherever it may lead us, and our sensibilities must succumb.

I have not had much experience as it regards clergymen, and the effects that tobacco has on the voice of public speakers. But I have had some knowledge of its use in almost all other classes in society; have used it myself in smoking, more or less, for upwards of thirty years; and though I have heard it proscribed by the more sensitive of