

## INHALATION.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE inhalation of the powder of *nitras argenti* and lycopodium forms almost a new era in the treatment of diseases of the larynx, bronchial tubes and lungs. The subject of inhaling various substances, as the vapor of different medicines, for these diseases, is not new. It has been tried in a variety of forms, and with numerous substances, by many eminent physicians, in various ages; but the use of the *nitrate*, as applied to the mucous membrane of the air passages, is very recent. For some three or four years it has been used by the probang, or a piece of bent whalebone with a sponge securely fastened to the bent end of it. This has been superseded by the *syringe*, and, more recently, by *inhaling*, from a properly-constructed instrument, the powder here named. This powder, when prepared according to the formula which I gave in the number of this Journal published March 6th, is impalpable, or exceedingly fine, and one half its weight is the *nitras argenti*. I have found it very beneficial in ulcerated sore throat, in laryngitis, bronchitis and incipient phthisis. The report, from several physicians in the country who have used it, has been favorable. Several of them state that they have raised cases in these diseases by its use, which they think would not have been raised by former modes of treatment.

The object of this note is to invite the attention of the profession to the subject, and induce them to make trial of it. The expense is comparatively trifling, and the inhalation is easily performed, and, if once adopted, I believe will not soon be abandoned.

As the ingredients, with the manner of compounding the powder, have been fully stated, any one can manufacture it himself, and easily construct an instrument by which it can be inhaled. W. M. CORNELL.

*Boston, September, 1850.*

## LETTERS FROM SWITZERLAND.

FROM THE EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THIS JOURNAL.

**BASLE**—On leaving Baden-Baden—designated, in some of the hand-books, the *hell of hells*, in reference to its gambling operations—a letter was mailed for Boston, the postage of which to Liverpool, in advance, was not far from fifty-five cents. This is mentioned merely that some idea may be formed of the tax upon letter-writing in this land of contraries, where a few are learned, rich and powerful, while the million are destined to labor, pay taxes, and train their children to believe in the divine right of kings. Basle is a quaint, rusty, antique looking place, containing perhaps 26,000 inhabitants—occupying both sides of the river, and united by a rickety, dilapidated bridge, which is laden with heavy stones to keep it from being swept away. Of the University, the library of Erasmus, Greek manuscripts that no one ever reads, and therefore estimated to be of rare value; the correspondence of the reformers; a collection of medals, Roman fragments of water-jugs, margins of milkpans,