to increase its size. The more bile the liver secretes or the greater its activity, the more that organ is emaciated or diminished in size; and such must be the effect of exercise with every organ which, by that exercise, is not supplied with a greater amount of blood. Even the muscles are not enlarged by exercise, of itself; the enlargement is owing to the agency of exercise in forcing into them a greater amount than ordinary of arterial blood, their appropriate nutriment. Muscular exercise, added to the natural force of the circulation, is in this way the great agent, and almost the only agent, in augmenting the size of the body in general and of the brain in particular. The muscles have a known agency in propelling the blood; the brain has no such power, and consequently no power of augmenting its own size. The brain manifests the most perfect passivity, and its phenomena are produced by the action of foreign stimuli upon it. A nerve never manifests the least contractile power. If, in an amputation or any other surgical operation, the end of a nerve is left exposed, it remains exposed, until it sloughs off; it never retracts.

If mankind do not differ perceptibly in the capacity of their external senses, what reason have we to search for a greater difference in their mental capacities? There are instances of idiocy and of *non compos mentis*, as there are of blindness and deafness; but as a general principle, the capacities of the human race appear to me to be very nearly equal; not mathematically equal, for animal bodies admit of no such equality, but physiologically the same. In muscular strength they differ materially; but in the phenomena of the mind, carried on whether they will or not, a class of phenomena which resembles no other but the phenomena of the senses, the individuals of the human race differ much too little ever to become a subject of discussion.

The largest class of brains are not found among those who, from infancy, are educated scholars, but among the laboring class. The brains of the laboring class, like their lungs and stomach, are enlarged by exercise. The size of their muscles is only an index of the size of their brains; the latter are as much larger than the brains of sedentary people, however active may have been their minds, as are their muscles. It is not genius which enlarges the brain, but the plough-handle and the spade.

Providence, Feb. 13th, 1844.

D. B. SLACK.

A COFFEE-BEAN IN THE TRACHEA—DEATH OF THE PATIENT.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

OCTOBER 2d, 1843, I was called to visit a child of Mr. S. D., about two years of age, which presented, on examination, the ordinary symptoms of acute bronchitis in a mild form. The disease yielded to treatment, so that on the fourth day I ceased my visits. I learned, however, from the mother of the child, a few days after this, that some difficulty of breathing, and a wheezing sound with a slight cough, still remained.

The child was in the habit of playing with coffee; and she now stated to me that she entertained fears that some of it had been "swallowed"

before I was first called, as it had a "fit of choking," although this was not so severe as to attract much attention at the time it occurred. As I had recently seen several other children who labored under a bronchitic affection, I supposed her fears were groundless. I did not, however, again see the patient.

Subsequently, a physician who pretends to have a *thorough* knowledge of diseases of the chest, and to have remarkable success in their treatment, saw the child several times, and after a *critical* examination came to the conclusion that there was considerable inflammation of the mucous membrane of the *right* lung. As the right side of the chest was somewhat enlarged, he thought the right lung to be the only organ diseased, and if (as the mother of the child suggested to him) coffee had passed down the trachea, it must have lodged in that lung. A cough mixture, with an occasional dose of *rhei et sodæ*, were ordered, with rubefacients externally, and exercise in the open air.

The child continued without much improvement to Nov. 27th. On the 28th I was called again in haste, and found it in convulsions. The day previous it had been exposed to a current of cold air, and eaten a considerable quantity of raisins. I immediately evacuated the contents of the stomach and bowels with ipecac. and sub. mur. hyd., ordered the warm bath, and anti-spasmodics internally. On the following morning it appeared so much improved that we anticipated a happy result. During the day, however, the unfavorable symptoms returned with renewed vigor, and in the evening and night following it had a succession of spasms, which terminated in the death of the little sufferer at 6 o'clock, on the morning of the 30th, forty-two hours after I first saw it.

Autopsy, eight hours after death, in presence of Dr. P. Brown and others. *Right lung in a healthy condition.* Left lung considerably enlarged, and lower portion hepatized. In the left bronchial tube, nearly two inches below the bifurcation, found half a grain of burned coffee. Mucous membrane at this point much inflamed, and the tube enlarged, with the walls thickened and more dense than natural.

Liver one third larger than usual, and adhered to the diaphragm very extensively. It appeared to occupy the lower portion of the chest, and to press the right lung from its native position. This, however, was the effect of former disease. The enlargement of the right breast, without a corresponding enlargement or disease of the right lung, is here explained. When the passage of air through the left bronchial tube became obstructed by the coffee, the right lung, in its efforts to do the duty of both, and coming in contact with an unyielding mass of liver below, forced the ribs forward, and gave that side of the chest its unusual prominence.

Near the cardiac orifice of the stomach the vessels were somewhat injected, exhibiting signs of inflammation.

In the small intestines found one grain of unburned coffee, but no indication of disease.

All other organs in a normal condition.

J. H. MORSE.

Manchester, N. H., Jan. 4th, 1844.