The second case occurred in the wife of the undersigned. The child died sixty-two hours after delivery. The secretion of the mammaræ commenced on the morning of the second day. The same applications as in the first case were made during eight days, when the secretion ceased. There was no soreness of the nipples, but some indurated nodules were felt in several parts of the breast, during the first few days, which melted under the use of castor oil carefully rubbed into the hardened parts.

CASE III.—Mrs. R. B. Phillips, Keokuk, Iowa. The child, aged 13½ months, died from the effects of dentition. The breasts, the third day after the child's death, were very hard and painful. Castor oil was used as an embrocation, and the milk was extracted repeatedly. I then made use of a strong infusion of the fresh leaves of belladonna, which were near at hand, applying it as above. A decided improvement was visible after the first few applications; the breasts becoming soft and less tender, ceased to secrete by the first day after the applications.

Here are three cases in which belladonna has acted favorably in my hands; and although the question, "*would the secretion not perhaps have ceased spontaneously?*" remains in some measure still open, the above result will induce me to a similar treatment in similar cases, the more so, as in two cases out of the three the breast-pump was deemed necessary, which thus far was an interference with mother nature; but, notwithstanding this always more or less irritating interference, the cases improved as rapidly as could be desired.

Yours truly,

EDMUND SEYFFARTH, M.D.

Keokuk, Iowa, July 20th, 1858.

EXTERNAL APPLICATION OF BELLADONNA AS A MEANS OF ARRESTING THE LACTEAL SECRETION.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MESSRS. EDITORS,—In No. 24 of your JOURNAL you request your readers to test the powers of belladonna in arresting the lacteal secretion, and report the result. I therefore send the following brief report of two cases which were treated about the middle of last month.

Mrs. M., æt. 26, lost her second child five days after its birth. Within twenty-four hours thereafter her husband applied to me for a prescription for his wife, stating that her breasts were very painful and greatly distended with milk. I gave him an ointment made of equal parts of extract of belladonna and lard, and told him to apply it three times a day, on the areolæ around the nipples. After the first application (at night), the pain nearly ceased; it was used twice the next day and once the day following, but not afterward, because my patient said that it was not necessary.

Dr. Stout, of this place, made the same prescription in a similar

case, with like results, but he is unable to give me the particulars, as he did not see his patient at all.

From these two cases it would *seem* that nothing better could be desired to arrest the secretion of milk; the effect, it is true, *may* not have been produced by the remedy, but I am now disposed to think otherwise.

Yours, truly,

Ottawa, Ill., July 23d, 1858.

J. O. HARRIS, M.D.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, AUGUST 5, 1858.

LONGEVITY OF GRADUATES OF COLLEGES.

NEARLY a year ago we published some interesting statistics concerning the duration of life among the graduates of Harvard College, deduced from the computations of Professor PEIRCE. The most striking result was the fact that those graduates were longer-lived than the average of mankind; and the ample materials for the calculation would seem to warrant their being quite reliable. In looking over the necrology of Harvard for the past year, we find a striking confirmation of the results obtained by Mr. Peirce, in the remarkably advanced age of those who died since Commencement Day, 1857. The number of deaths, so far as ascertained, is 30, and the aggregate ages of the deceased amount to 1913 years, giving an average of $63\frac{1}{2}$ years to each person. One graduate died at the age of 93 years; 7 were over 80; 9 between 70 and 80; 2 between 60 and 70; 3 between 50 and 60; 9 were under 50. The age of the youngest was 25.

These results are also confirmed in a striking manner by similar ones obtained from the necrology of Yale College for the past year. The number of graduates of Yale who died during the year, and whose ages are recorded, was 46, and their aggregate ages amount to 2873 years, giving an average of $62\frac{1}{2}$ to each graduate. There were 4 over 80 years; 19 between 70 and 80; 4 between 60 and 70.

There is every reason for supposing that the probable duration of life among the graduates of Yale is equal to that of the graduates of Harvard. As the numbers of the alumni of the two institutions are about the same, the result of computations for that college, similar to those undertaken by Mr. Peirce, would be of great interest and value. If the two sets of calculations were found to agree, the result ought to have the effect of diminishing the premium on the life-insurance of the graduates of literary institutions. We have long been of the opinion that the rates of insurance on the lives of members of the learned professions were too high. Great numbers are deterred by this circumstance from insuring. Now if it could be ascertained that the risk was really less than has hitherto been supposed, the rates might be lowered with the greatest advantage both to the insurance offices and to young men entering the professions. It is notorious that but a very small number of our lawyers, clergymen and physicians earn more than a small competency. Few leave more than a pittance to their families when they are cut off midway in their career,