TRANSACTIONS OF THE COLORADO STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY, AT ITS THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION HELD IN DENVER, JUNE, 1883. 8vo., 122 pp.

From the list of members published in these transactions, it would appear that the Colorado State Medical Society has 109 active members to do its work, and from the paper by Dr. Jesse Hawes, entitled *Charlatanism in Colorado*, it would appear that a large part of that work has been to expose and get rid of quacks and impostors, which it seems to be doing quite effectually. The President, Dr. P. R. Thombs, takes as the theme of his annual address, "The Neuropathic Diathesis, or Insane Temperament and its Management by the State," in which he emphasizes the necessity for State laws governing the sexual commerce of such, in or out of wedlock, by forbidding marriage of a certain class, and quarantining effectually the victims. Dr. R. G. Buckingham gives a report on Obstetrics, in which he refers most particularly to his own practice and experience in cases of difficult labor. Dr. Edward Rivers in his report on Ophthalmology gives an interesting résumé of the progress of to-day. The *Bacillus Tuberculosis* is discussed by Dr. Charles Denison, and this followed by two interesting articles—one by Dr. S. Edwin Solby on Climatology, in which he discusses temperature as influencing climatic change; and the other on the Analysis of Signal Service Statistics with reference to Colorado Climate, by Dr. Samuel Fisk. Dr. J. W. Collins reports a Case of Uterine Stricture. Dr. Geo. W. Cox discusses Areolar Hyperplasia of the Uterus, and in considering the means of diagnosis, he recommends the passing of the whole hand into the vagina under the influence of an anæsthetic, which practice he applies to virgins as well as to married women. Dr. J. J. Macdonald shows a symptom of the infection now pervading medical societies, by breaking out all over in verse, in a poem replete with variety, puns and rhyme.

DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENCE.

HAY FEVER.

In the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION of October 13, 1883, is published a paper on Hay Fever, by C. Hixson, M.D., of O'Fallen, Illinois.

As the writer says, "I have been a sufferer from hay fever for twenty-five years," and that "my opinion is that those who cure hay fever have never seen a genuine case, but have mistaken it for a case of common cold," I think it is time that he should hear from one who, like himself, has "sat up of nights in order to get a modicum of sleep."

I prefer to call the disease summer catarrh, as I believe the dust from hay, like the pollen from rag weeds, is only one of the causes of that peculiar disease.

If the doctor, when he says no one can cure hay fever, means such a cure as will ever after secure the

patient from another attack, perhaps he is right; but if he means to state that is not amenable to such cure as are intermittent and remittent fevers, then I think he has "during the last twenty-five years" not swallowed the right "half of the materia medica."

As I have suffered from hay fever thirty-seven years, just twelve years longer than Dr. Hixson has, I shall take it for granted that I know what the disease is, and therefore waste no time in describing the frontal headache, the stuffed feeling of the nose, nor the number of handkerchiefs I have made ready, in a given time, for the washerwoman, nor the nights, seventy-two hours long, I have "sat up" because I could get my "modicum of breath" in no other position. But to the treatment.

When a sufferer finds that an attack of summer catarrh is approaching, I would have him take from 15 to 20 drops of the tincture of opium and 15 grs. of iodide of potassium. He should repeat the tincture of opium every hour until the headache, the choriza and the tightness of the chest are relieved. This will generally occur after the second or third dose has been taken. Then have him take 15 to 20 grs. per day of sulphate of quinia, divided into three doses and taken after meals with 10 grs. of iodide potassium. These last remedies should be continued two or three days, or until all the symptoms of the disease are removed. If the symptoms for which the tincture of opium were given recur, it should be repeated in full doses as often as required. When I say full doses I do not mean, the so many drops of the materia medica, but the quantity sufficient to allay the symptoms for which the opium is administered. Last night I took 100 minims of tincture of opium in two doses for what I believe to have been my last visit of hay fever until next July—possibly until August or September. To-day I visited my patients as usual; and to-night I am writing this letter.

And now I come to the most unpleasant part of my duty, as I take no pride in the facts which the truth compels me to state. Twenty years ago I was advised by a medical friend to smoke tobacco for my infirmity. I took his advice. During the first ten years after I began my evil habit I very seldom had to resort to opium, quinine and iodide of potassium. Since that time the tobacco smoke has lost some of its potency, but the other remedies named never fail.

I hope when Dr. Hixson reads this paper he will not say he has tried all of them with no benefit, until he tries them in the quantities, and in the order stated. Of course, if he prescribes opium to a new patient, it is not necessary for me to suggest that he must gradually explore his way to such patient's opium capacity, which often lies far beyond the maximum laid down by the authorities.

Such is the treatment of summer catarrh, by which I have made life tolerable in one of the most annoying diseases which affects the human body. If Dr. Hixson's case has not become an outlaw to materia medica I hope to hear a good report from him.

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