which would be an ounce ; therefore *twenty-four grains* must have been taken. She was kept continually walking ; coffee was administered, &c. ; and, strange to say, she recovered. The case is interesting as it proves that the remedial measures in this instance could not have brought about so favourable and unlooked-for a termination, and it shows what nature can do in restoring herself to her accustomed powers, without the intervention of medical science or chirological art.

HYDRIODATE OF POTASH.

To the Editor,—Sir: I have just read your very just remarks in THE LANCET on those gentlemen who boast of giving large doses of hydriodate of potash, such as half an ounce, which, in my opinion, would prove fatal if the article were pure. Gr. x, *ter die*, is the largest dose that I have ever given, beginning with gr. iij, *ter die*, with the greatest success (internally) in cases of diseased joints. Externally I have used it with curative effects in the form of ointment, thus:—R *Hydriod. pot.*, 3j ; *aq. distill.*, 5j. Solve, and mix with 3j of lard ; a piece of the size of a large nut, to be used two or three times a day. I have at this moment a case of bronchocele which is progressing favourably under the use of the remedy ; the patient has come from Gravesend to be under my care. She was all but suffocated, and left to die, after consultations repeated during eleven or twelve years. I believe I shall cure her. Yours respectfully,

WM. BATTS, M.R.C.S.

George-street, Christ Church, Surrey,
Dec. 12, 1843.

THE HORRORS OF MONTFAUCON, AND THE INFLUENCE OF ITS EXHALATIONS ON THE HEALTH OF THE INHABITANTS OF PARIS.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE OF THAT CITY.

TO MEDICAL observers and hygiests, among the many interesting sights which Paris offers, none can be compared with the "voirie" of Montfaucon. Few, however, of our countrymen ever witness its hideous marvels, the Parisians who are acquainted with it, and even they are not numerous, being too proud of the beauties of their fine city to draw the attention of strangers to so unsightly a sore, as it may justly be considered. Indeed, we would not advise any one whose nerves were not inured to scenes

even more trying than those which our profession offers to its votaries in the ordinary course of their studies, to risk a visit to the great Parisian charnel-house, if they wish, at least, their recollections of Paris to be all of a pleasing nature. During a long residence in that city the writer had often formed the design of visiting Montfaucon, but never carried it into execution until a day or two before he left, and now he must confess that the lakes and mounds which it presents, mingle in the mind's eye, in a very unsatisfactory manner, with the palaces, the triumphal arches, and the beautiful gardens of the capital of France. We think our readers will be pleased to peruse a brief account of this establishment, which is not only interesting as illustrating the hygienic state of the second city in Europe, but may also furnish a lesson for this great metropolis. These are, indeed, the reasons which induce us to describe Montfaucon, a place so revolting to all feelings of delicacy, that nothing but a deep sense of the importance of the questions involved in a hygienic and even medical point of view, could have induced us to allude to it.

Montfaucon, for ages, has been the great charnel and offal-house of the French metropolis, and, in addition to this honourable destination, it also enjoyed, until the close of the last century, the distinction of possessing within its precincts the gibbet on which malefactors were executed ; a dreary scene the said malefactors must have had to close their eyes upon, one certainly not calculated to soothe their departure from this life. The gibbet has long ceased to grace the heights of Montfaucon, but time had not in any other respect shorn it of its horrors, until a year or two ago, when it was partially destroyed, as we shall presently explain. Paris is situated in a valley, through which runs the Seine, and occupies the space comprised between the river and the ridges by which the valley is formed. On the north-west side of the Seine, about two miles and a half from the river, and within half a mile of the Faubourg St. Martin, one of the most populous districts of Paris, are the hills called the "Buttes Chaumont," on the declivity of which we find Montfaucon. Thus this really awful establishment is situated within a quarter of a mile of the boundary-wall of Paris, and within a mile and a quarter of the populous Boulevard St. Martin, one of the most crowded thoroughfares. It occupies a space comprising about sixty acres, from the brow to the basis of the hill ; the latter presenting, at its highest point, an elevation of