had issued in the style which had become second nature to him.

There is no author from whom the members of a busy profession like ours can derive more pleasurable, more profitable recreation than De Quincey. At a time when the daily newspaper, with its hasty writing and its loose thinking, invites the reader with all the temptation of a present interest, it is something to find an antidote to the contagium of such thought and style in the works of a master whose exemption from the faults of journalism is instinctive and unique. Not that he is out of harmony with the contemporary movement of men and things. On the contrary, he is—as the extract on Newman shows—in constant advance of his time, and in not unfrequent anticipation of what has subsequently been fulfilled. But he is, with all that, an artist in style who never commits himself to any “line, which, dying, he would wish to blot.” As Dr. Johnson said with perfect truth for the eighteenth century, that the man who wanted to compose English elegantly should devote his days and nights to the study of Addison, so we may say for the busy man of the nineteenth that if he wants a corrective to the faults into which a too rapid school of thinking and

writing might lead him, he would do well to have within arm’s length the volumes of Thomas de Quincey.

Professor Masson has done his work loyally and ably. Not, however, that he has not committed mistakes. At p. 241 of vol. vi. he tells us that the Augustan History consists of biographies of the later Emperors in which “Trajan and Hadrian” are “skipped.” Now Hadrian happens to be the very first emperor in the series, his biography by *Ælius Spartianus* being about the best of the collection. Again, the accentuation of De Quincey’s Greek is inconsistent and faulty. The accents should have been applied uniformly and correctly or not at all.

NEW INFIRMARY, ST. JOHN’S COLLEGE, HURST-PIERPPOINT.—Hitherto cases of illness or accident occurring to the boys, some 200 in number, have been treated in an old dormitory set apart as a sick ward. About six years ago Mrs. Cooper, the wife of the Rev. C. E. Cooper, the present head master, conceived the idea of providing a suitable infirmary for the College, and began to collect funds for the object in view. She has now seen the virtual completion of her good work. On the 25th ult. the building was formally opened. It stands apart from the College, and contains adequate accommodation; it has cost about £1200.

New Invention.

THE “THERAPEUTIC” SMOKING PIPE AS AN ADJUNCT TO TREATMENT BY INHALATION.

THIS improved form of smoking pipe is introduced to the notice of the medical profession primarily to provide a means of combating the smoker’s habit, and to do away with the injurious element in it to which its baneful effects are due, by abstracting the obnoxious constituents of tobacco smoke, whilst leaving the aromatic principles unaffected, thereby making it available for daily use by delicate or invalid smokers, to whom total prohibition would often be little short of a punishment. The so-called “smoker’s heart and concomitant cardiac troubles,” “smoker’s amaurosis,”

“smoker’s sore-throat,” and other laryngeal, pharyngeal, and nasal diseases exemplify this, and I have no hesitation in saying that such cases may be permitted the use of their tobacco from

this pipe at a time when possibly it could not be allowed from any of the kinds with which I am acquainted. Secondly, the

pipe may be made useful as a means of turning to practical account, and utilising the habit of smoking as an adjunct to treatment by inhalation of volatile medicaments, so that the vapour of the remedy employed may be directed to the affected surfaces. Tobacco smoke is a mixture of several volatile ingredients, the chief of these being (a) the volatile liquid alkaloid nicotine or nicotine, which is “a colourless oil at ordinary temperature, but volatilises at 480° Fahrenheit” (Garrod); (b) a volatile oil nicotianin or tobacco camphor; (c) volatile aromatic principles; (d) watery vapour. “The action of smoking as a nervous stimulant is probably not due to the nicotine itself, but to the stimulus of the smoke on the sensory

nerves of the mouth and nares, which reflexly stimulates the vaso-motor centre, and so dilates the vessels of the brain” (Brunton). Hence the desirability of getting rid of the nicotine. In the “Therapeutic Pipe” principles for removing the nicotine are carried into practical effect. A reference to the diagram will show that the pipe by a modification in the boring is divided into the three chambers, E, C, and that occupied by the fitting, B B, E being the bowl for tobacco, C, a chamber below E, and occupied by the “radiator,” A, which is simply a box with a perforated top and bottom, and fits tightly on the bush on the under surface of the bowl by means of a projecting rim. If this box be filled with any fine powder, all the smoke passing through the interstices will come in contact with the particles of powder and be robbed of its heat, which is carried away by radiation through the pipe head. If the powder be a volatile one, this fact is available for therapeutic purposes. The smoke next enters the “smoke chamber,” C, where it is further cooled. Thereafter it passes along the tube-like chamber contained in the stem and occupied by the “accumulator,” B, B, which consists of a bundle of prepared fibres about three inches in length, and by the contiguity of the fibres to each other this bundle forms a series of capillary tubes. I have obtained smoke absolutely free from acidity. D is a cup for drainage. Both the fittings, A and B, are readily replaced by new ones when exhausted, so that a pipe which is always

clean is not the least of the considerations to be borne in mind. To make it effective as a therapeutic agent, the patient should be instructed to exhale the medicated smoke through the nose, by which act it is carried into the pharynx. Chloride of ammonium, tannic acid, salicylic acid, benzoic acid, and sulphur have all yielded satisfactory results, especially the first two. Another possible use of the pipe is that of an insufflator, for by taking out the accumulator, B, and charging either the radiator, A, or the empty stem with the powder to be insufflated, and then without using tobacco, perform the act of smoking, the current set up will carry the powder well back into the fauces, the suction greatly facilitating this. Most of the wholesale chemists will be able to supply all requirements. Messrs. Woolley, chemists, of Manchester, and Sumners, chemists, of Liverpool, already have them with fittings supplied to stated formulæ.

Bowdon, Cheshire.

C. W. JONES, M.B.