in the presence of such of the audience as had the good fortune to get near enough to see. Of the success of these experiments we are unable to speak from personal knowledge.

The third evening Séance was opened with the exhibition, by Dr. Brunetti, of Padua, of his new method for the preservation of anatomical and pathological specimens, which had already excited the greatest interest among medical visitors to the Italian section of the Paris Exposition, where the specimens had been displayed. The mechanism of the process, however, had, till now, been kept by M. Brunetti a profound secret. His system has the advantage of perfectly preserving the histological structure of the organs, while the preparations themselves are light and elastic and can be handled without inconvenience.*

[To be continued.]

MINERAL WATERS.

By CHARLES E. BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

WE are so frequently annoyed by the persistency of advertisers in thrusting before us notices of mineral waters, which will cure every known disease; and so frequently horrified by the statements of friends who wish them tried by patients; and so frequently amused by the certificates of professional brethren, who recommend them to the public, that I thought, that to look at them, and see what compose them, and how they do good, might be an advantage. Governors and mayors, merchants and clergymen, landlords and doctors, generals and congressmen, gamblers and loafers find their names affixed to the puffs of one or another distinguished spring. Chemists rejoice in the infinitesimal doses of ides and ates and ites, which they are enabled to see their names appended to on printed wrappers, and the various neighborhoods are proud of the cathartic, alterative, diuretic, and antiscrofulous panaceas, which some famous or to-be-famous spring piddles out for the humbugged, who spend money and time for their benefit.

To keep the bowels open is the whole duty of some men, and if a disagreeable salt water will do it for half a dollar a quart, it is better than to do it with pills, at two cents apiece. It is not with them the change of air at Saratoga, nor the pleasant

scenery and relaxation at Homburg, nor the pleasant company at Tunbridge or Leamington, nor the unwonted exercise and amusement, at all these places. It is physic and physic alone they look to for relief, and nature's medicine ready prepared for them, by sulphur springs, they consider more advantageous than the same medicine, if they took it without the name blown into the black bottle from the nearest grocer or druggist. So it seems, if they take it when it comes from the spring; but the greater benefit comes from the surroundings and the change, and from these alone. A couple of teaspoonfuls of Epsom or Glauber salts to a quart of water gives as much medicinal virtue as anything it contains, and more than most springs possess, aside from the change of air and scene, which those do not get who buy by the bottle. A quart of pure water, taken a half hour before breakfast, will clear out the bowels or wash out the bladders of most men, within an hour after meals, quite as well as the stinking solutions, known as mineral waters, whether they are impregnated with Virginia brimstone, or the drainings from some celebrated graveyard in Pennsylvania.

Let us look at the contents of the well-known springs. The richest in salts of any mineral water, whose composition I have, is Cheltenham. The wine pint contains in solution, 15 grains of Glauber's salt and 11 grains of Epsom salt. The remainder is principally table salt, to the amount of 50 grains. Common salt is the principal ingredient in almost all the celebrated waters. Take five of the Saratoga springs. The Iodine spring has 23.4 grs. of common salt to the pint; the Pavilion spring a fraction of a grain more; the Union spring 30.4 grs.; the Congress spring 19 grains; and the last and of course the best, the famous Star spring 47.3 grs. The other saline constituents are in amount so small, that they are of little or no consequence, or else, like the iodides, may do as much mischief as good, by producing eruptions, which the patients would otherwise be free from, and which are no indications of previous disease, nor promises of future health.

Take the sulphuretted springs, of which the White Sulphur is a fair specimen. A wine gallon has the common salt, the Epsom salt, a bare trace of iron, and every pint is mixed with .3 of a cubic inch of sulphuretted hydrogen, which serves to flavor the expirations from one end of the body of its consumer, at least.

Now for the Chalybeates, those which have what I think Sam Weller called the

* For a detailed account of Dr. Brunetti's method, we refer to the interesting paper of Dr. Stearns, which is appended to this report.

flavor of warm flat-irons. Tunbridge has 0.275 of a grain of iron to the pint; Brighton, 1.1 gr.; Cheltenham, 0.8 gr.; Bedford, less than a grain and a half; Sharon, a little more than a quarter of a grain. When we come to the so-called carbonated waters, if we wish the benefit of these, it can all be had at any country tavern in New England, in a daily breakfast of saleratus biscuit.

Of course the profession do not want my advice. Perhaps the clergy, and governors and members of Congress do not. It is therefore offered without asking. If your bowels are not open and your food will not make them so, take a pint or more of *clean* water, thirty minutes before breakfast. If that does not answer the purpose, add to it a pinch of common salt, Epsom salt, or Glauber salt, which you can buy a pound of for a few cents. A run in the country among the hills will do the rest of the work (you may be sure it will do you no harm), and don't make yourselves ridiculous by puffing medicines, of whose good effects you know little, and whose bad effects you are not willing to be responsible for.

features in this class of diseases is excessive gastric irritation. Doubtless many of your readers who have served in the army can vouch for this from personal experience. This being the case, it is not surprising that the stomach should be in a condition ill able to bear even so innocuous a drug as bromide of potash. With all due respect to Dr. Burr, who is perhaps my senior in years as well as in knowledge, I am compelled to believe that "caution" in a physician is never "needless"; that enantiopathy is ever preferable to homœopathy as a mental regimen. With regard to the Doctor's chemistry I can but charitably imagine a "lapsus pennæ," instead of suggesting a further perusal of Fowne, Stockhardt, and Dalton. I trust that Dr. Taylor will shortly report through your columns *cum propria penna*.

CHANDLER BALCH BRAMAN, M.D.

Brighton, Mass.

Hospital Reports.

BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL.

Notes of Operations during the month of June, 1868.
Reported by FRANK W. DRAPER, House Surgeon.

CASE I.—*Fibrous Tumor of Abdominal Parietes; Excision*.—C. S., an unmarried female, aged 24, had noticed, about a year before her entrance to hospital, a swelling the size of a walnut in the right iliac fossa. Its development was slow but continuous, and it was attended, at irregular intervals, with dull pain in the lumbar region, and a sense of discomfort in the immediate region of the tumor. The catamenia had always been irregular since puberty.

On entrance, an examination discovered a hard, painless tumor just above Poupart's ligament on the right side. Its size appeared that of an orange. It was of an irregularly conical shape, with its base directed towards the median line, and its point of attachment at the anterior superior spine of the ilium. Examination per vaginam discovered no connection between the tumor and the uterine organs. There was no trouble in micturition, and the bowels were, in general, regular. A moderate leucorrhœal discharge has existed for some time. The general condition of the patient was obviously below par, and the mental depression was, at times, excessive, amounting almost to insanity. She had received treatment previously to her appearance at the City Hospital, consisting chiefly of

POISONING BY BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.

MR. EDITOR,—In your issue of July 16th, I notice an article by Dr. Daniel Burr, of Binghamton, N. Y., in which the gentleman seems unwilling to admit the possibility of any ill effects arising from the "exhibition of 20 grains bromide of potash, twice or thrice repeated, at six hours interval." Since reporting Dr. Taylor's case of poisoning by bromide of potassium, I have had under my charge a soldier afflicted with chronic alcoholism, in whose case, on two separate occasions, I have noticed undoubted symptoms of severe gastric irritation from the administration of only forty grains of the bromide during the twenty-four hours. The salt was dissolved in about six ounces of water and taken at regular intervals (say 2 hours), during the day. No other remedy was given the patient, while the character of the food was light and wholesome. No cause for the symptoms observed could be assigned, other than the inability of a stomach enfeebled by disease to bear the medicine even when largely diluted with water. If Dr. Burr will take the trouble to read my article again carefully, he will notice that the patient had been suffering for some weeks with intermittent fever. I know not whether the Dr. has had acquaintance with malaria. If he has not, I can assure him that one of the most prominent