MINERAL WATERS.

MESSRS. EDITORS, — Having for the past eighteen months used the Sheboygan mineral water in general practice with remarkable success, the writer considers it a duty which he owes to the medical profession of this country, as a slight return for the valuable information he has received from the experience of other physicians as communicated through the pages of the *JOURNAL*, to report what he has been able, by his own observation, to gather of its therapeutical value, and to recommend it to farther and more scientific investigation.

The analysis by Professor Chandler, of New York, shows this water to be closely allied to the waters of Kissingen and Kreutznach of Germany, containing each and every mineral found in the waters of Kreutznach, and, with the exception of chloride of sodium, in nearly the same proportions. As compared with Kissingen it contains the same amount of chloride of sodium, as well as all of the other salts, nitrate of soda only excepted. In addition to the minerals found in Kissingen and Kreutznach, Sheboygan shows traces of sulphate of baryta and biborate of soda, with a small amount of bicarbonate of manganese.

Guided by the well-known hand-book of *Balneo-Therapy*, edited by Dr. H. Helfft, Berlin, 1867, the writer has prescribed this mineral water for nearly all the diseases for which Dr. Helfft has recommended Kissingen or Kreutznach, and his success has thus far been highly encouraging, especially in the treatment of scrophulosis, arthritis, chronic rheumatism, chronic catarrhs of the bronchial tubes and the alimentary organs, hyperæmia of the liver and kidneys, hæmorrhoids, anomalies of the menstrual functions, chlorosis, and many chronic diseases of the skin, joints, and bones.

This mineral water flows from an artesian well bored in one of the parks of the city of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, in 1875, to the depth of 1475 feet, 1383 feet being through solid rock. At a depth of 285 feet a fissure was found in the rock of three or four feet in width, below which no seam was discovered. At a depth of 1263 feet a white sandstone was struck, and at 1350 feet a flow of water was obtained; at 1475 feet four inches below the surface a hard rock resembling granite was found, and after several attempts to drill without success work was suspended. The well having been carefully tubed the water flows bright, clear, and sparkling, free from any organic matter or unpleasant odor, about two hundred gallons per minute at a pressure of forty-two and a half pounds to the square inch, with a uniform temperature of 59° Fahr.

The water is rich in saline materials, containing lithia, bromine, iodine, with chalybeates and carbonic acid gas enough to make it at once a most valuable stimulating alterative and tonic. In taste it is somewhat salty and slightly bitter, but not at all nauseating; drinkers soon become accustomed to it, and some even prefer it to pure well-water.

After careful trial by the profession we bespeak for it high rank among the mineral waters of the world.

LOUIS BOOTH, M. D.

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