been to a mesmerizer, that she had been using the mesmerizer's prescriptions, and that she had the recipes in her possession. At my request she produced a paper, of which the following is a copy, *verbatim, literatim, and punctuatim*.

"R. Snuff, to be taken 3 or 4 times a day. Bath Each Morning with Cold Water. Bath the Side and Shoulders, Back and pelvis, each Night, with Brandy, 5th preparation. Bath the Head with the Tincture of Meadow, fern and Seawater one Spoonful 3 or 4 times a day and when it *feels* heated. Ante Mercurial Syrup. After taking one Bottle of this Commence taking the Strengthening Syrup the Same way. Spice Bitters. Apply the Irritating plaster Between the Shoulders. \$388."

All was sufficiently intelligible, except the \$388, which I was informed meant that she paid \$3.88 for the medicine. I then inquired whether she had derived any benefit from the medicine. She said she had not received much benefit, but she thought the snuff did some good, more than any other of the remedies.

If you think the above most scientific and most profound prescription will sufficiently amuse, not to say enlighten, your readers, please insert it in your Journal, and hand it down to posterity for the benefit of all future time.

GEO. HUBBARD.

Boston, December, 1846.

NÆVI MATERNI.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

A NEIGHBOR of ours had a pair of Muscovi ducks. In the spring, as usual, the duck dropped her eggs wherever she happened to be. At this time the ducks got out of the yard and strayed to the river. To scare them from the water their owner threw a stone at them, which happened to hit the drake upon the head, inflicting a severe wound. After a time they were conveyed to the house. For a number of days the drake lay upon his side, and the duck stood over him expressing a great amount of sympathy and anxiety. The curiosity of the incident is, that about this time the duck made her nest, and in due time, from eight eggs, hatched eight ducks, each having a similar wound upon the head, and were unable to stand, but lay upon the side in like manner as the drake had done. They lived but a short time; the last died on the fifth day. J. H. M.

Ellington, Ct., Dec. 30, 1846.

INSENSIBILITY DURING SURGICAL OPERATIONS BY INHALATION.

[THE following is from the New York Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences, edited by Dr. Charles A. Lee.]

Much has been said of late in some of our exchanges in reference to this matter. From them we gather that it is a patented preparation, and that the substance used is (in all probability) "an ethereal solution of some

narcotic substance ; ” it is inhaled from a “ small two-necked glass globe ; ” it renders the patient insensible for a period varying from two to forty-five minutes or more ; it is not safe even when administered in a skilful manner to children ; serious and almost fatal consequences have followed the inhalation of it by adults possessing susceptible constitutions, all of which render it (when administered judiciously) a limited, dangerous, and uncertain preparation—even supposing it to be presented to the profession in a proper manner, which, we are compelled to say, is not the case. Nor is this all. We are sorry to see many of our brethren, at home and abroad, stooping from the exalted position they occupy in the profession, to hold intercourse with, and become the abettors of, quackery in any form. Such doings are certainly contrary to the ethics of the profession, and should not be tolerated for a moment in any one.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JANUARY 20, 1847.

Regulations of the Massachusetts General Hospital.—The special attention of medical gentlemen in the country, is called to an advertisement in this week’s Journal, regarding the regulations of the Massachusetts General Hospital in the admission of patients. Dr. Thayer is taking the right method to prevent a recurrence of mistakes and disappointments. The institution is admirably conducted, and may, without hazard of contradiction, be called the first hospital in America.

Boston Lunatic Hospital.—In the recent report of the board of visitors the institution is represented to be in a very satisfactory condition. Improvements and additional accommodations were demanded, in consequence of the prodigious influx of pauper lunatics from Europe. More and longer wings to the present ones, it seems, will soon be required. In connection with this report, is another by Dr. Stedman, which is a plain, exact account of the internal administration of the institution. One hundred and sixty-nine patients, viz., 85 males and 84 females, now remain in the hospital. It appears that the discharges never equal the admissions, and, in the nature of things, never will. Of the present 169 resident lunatics, 90 of them are foreigners ; 70 of whom are from Ireland. Eleven of the United States are represented in this hospital, yet these do not equal, in number, the lunatics from Europe, who are supported by the citizens of Boston. The act of sending idiots, insane paupers and feeble old people from parishes in the three kingdoms, to save the cost of supporting them at home, is notorious. Dr. Stedman says that intemperance continues to be the exciting cause of insanity in many who are confided to his care. We like the tone of his report, because it breathes a spirit of benevolence, while the feeling of responsibility is apparent in every line. If it were possible to restore all the inmates to health and reason, it is very certain he would do it.