MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY.

8. *Slyptic effect of Kreasote*.—A robust countryman divided the ulnar artery with a sharp knife, the consequence of which was repeated bleedings, which, however, were staunched by surgical aid. Three weeks afterwards, hemorrhage returned, and Dr. BURDACH of Luckan was sent for. He found the wound, which at first was a simple puncture, livid at the edges, and expanded to the size of the palm of the hand, by a spongy growth from the bottom. This spongy mass was in a gangrenous condition, and prevented the examination of the wound; the arm was swollen from the shoulder to the finger points; it could not be moved, and was excessively painful. Dr. Burdach had only the choice between actual cautery and kreasote left, for in such a state of the arm, tying the artery was out of the question. He poured ʒss of kreasote (*freed from eupion*) into the wound. This gave the patient no pain; nay, after it he enjoyed refreshing sleep for the first time since the accident. There was no more hemorrhage; the pouring in of the kreasote was repeated morning and evening, and the spongy mass gradually diminished, and three days afterwards, under the co-operating influence of bandages moistened with kreasote, ol. tereb. and balsam. indic., loosened itself from the bottom of the wound. The divided artery was no more visible, the swelling of the arm decreased, and the complete cure shortly followed without any relapse.—*Lond. and Edin. Monthly Journ. Med. Sci.* May 1842, from *Medicinische Zeitung*, Jahrg. 1840. No. 31.

9. *Sulpho-Cyanuret of Potassium*.—This salt, a most valuable re-agent for the salts of iron, has been recommended by Scëmmering to replace in medicine the hydrocyanic acid and the cyanuret of potassium, the therapeutic properties of which it possesses without their inconveniences. M. MEILLER employs the following plan for its preparation, which is cheaper than that in which alcohol is used. The mixture of dry prussiate of potass and sulphur is introduced into a Hessian crucible, and heated to the state of pasty fusion; it is then stirred with an iron rod, and withdrawn from the fire. When the crucible is cold, wash the mixture with water instead of alcohol, and filter; and a liquid, charged with the sulpho-cyanuret of potassium, and a little sulpho-cyanuret of iron, will be obtained. The iron is precipitated by means of the carbonate of potass, the fluid is poured off, and if it be alkaline, saturated with a little nitric acid. It is then evaporated and crystallised frequently; the acetate of potass remains in the mother waters. If the mixture be heated, as some authors advise, beyond pasty fusion, to a dull red, a large quantity of the sulpho-cyanuret of potassium is decomposed, and a notable quantity of carbonate of potass produced. It is better to have in the liquid a sulpho-cyanuret of iron, which can be changed into the sulpho-cyanuret of potassium, than potass, which is a real loss. If the fire has been too strong, and that is most frequently the case, in washing the matter with water we obtain a sulpho-cyanuret of potassium with the carbonate of potass. As boiling alkaline solutions decompose the sulpho-cyanuret into sulphuret of potassium, carbon which is deposited, and azote which is disengaged, the alcohol was employed to isolate the carbonate insoluble in that menstruum. In that case it is advisable to add a few drops of white pyroligneous acid to saturate the free alkali; the liquid is then evaporated, and set to crystallize.—*Prov. Med. and Surg. Journ.* May 14, 1842, from *Journ. de Pharmacie*.

10. *Lime Moxa*.—Lime has been employed by Dr. OSBORNE as a moxa.

It is used as follows: A little quicklime, to the depth of half an inch, is put within a *porte moxa*, or a circular piece of card, and applied to the skin; water is then dropped on it, and mixed. In about two minutes it swells, and an intense heat is given out. It has been calculated that the heat produced is equal to 500° of Fahrenheit. If it is kept on as long as the heat continues, the whole skin is destroyed; but by removing it sooner, an issue to any extent may be

formed. Dr. O. prefers this kind of moxa, from the great heat suddenly produced, and from no fire or sparks being seen, so as to alarm the patient. To ascertain the depth to which this moxa acts, he applies it to the surface of an egg, and then observes the thickness of coagulated albumen formed beneath. The size of the ulcer formed is always twice as large as that of the lime applied. When the lime is prepared from calcareous spar, the heat produced on the addition of the water is sudden and intense, and the pain is proportionately urgent. For ordinary purposes, however, well-selected pieces of lime, from a limekiln, answer well if *fresh*, but not otherwise.—*Lond. and Edin. Monthly Journ. Med. Sci.*, March, 1842.

MEDICAL PATHOLOGY, THERAPEUTICS, AND PRACTICAL MEDICINE.

11. *Five cases of Crowing Inspiration of Children in the same family.* By JONATHAN TOOGOOD, Esq.—Case I.—H. I., when about a year old, was suddenly seized, without any previous indisposition, with the following symptoms:—A slight crowing noise was first observed, a feeble distressing cry was uttered, followed by a sudden suspension of breathing and threatening of instant suffocation; the countenance became livid, the eyes starting from their sockets, frothy saliva was protruded from the mouth, the jaw fell, and he remained so long in this state that the bystanders thought he was dead. He was laid in a horizontal position and kept perfectly still, when, after a few minutes, a slight attempt at inspiration was made, which gradually improved, until his complete recovery was established. The contents of the bladder and rectum were evacuated during the attack; his countenance was very pale for a long time afterwards. During the next six months he had several slight attacks, which almost invariably commenced during comfortable easy sleep, and were preceded by an expression of pain in the countenance, and, although of short duration, were very distressing. After this time they ceased entirely, and he has grown up to manhood in the enjoyment of good health.

CASE II.—F. I., his brother, was attacked in the same manner when about six weeks old, and after repeated seizures, suddenly expired in one when fourteen weeks old.

CASE III.—O. I., another brother, had a similar attack when about a year and a half old, but less violent. These recurred occasionally until he was three years old, when they ceased. He has grown up to manhood in good health.

CASE IV.—A. I., another brother, began to have the same affection when about six months old, which continued until he completed his fourth year. During this period the attacks were sometimes so violent as to threaten instant death. They were occasioned by crying or passion, and once in consequence of a fall, which brought on so violent a seizure, that there appeared no probability of his recovery. He was kept perfectly still, with his head a little raised, and after two or three minutes he began to breathe again. After this he had slight attacks on crying or losing his breath, but never a serious one; the countenance always became livid, and respiration was suspended, but there was no convulsion, which invariably happened when the attack was severe.

CASE V.—M. A., a sister, a delicate child, born at eight months, was very well until six months, when she was seized exactly as her brothers had been, without any previous indisposition. These attacks recurred frequently until the end of May, after which time she had slight ones. Convulsions, lividity of the countenance, and evacuation of the contents of the rectum and bladder, always accompanied the attacks. On one occasion she lay apparently dead, when the lungs were inflated, to which her recovery was attributed. In the month of June, when three quarters of a year old, the bones of the head, which had closed as firmly as usual at that period, except the interior fontanelle, separated again, and the division of the sutures could be easily traced with the finger. After