

medicines acquire at each division or dilution, a new degree of power, by the rubbing or shaking they undergo, a means of developing the inherent virtues of medicines that was unknown till my time; and which is so energetic, that latterly I have been forced by experience to reduce the number of shakes to two, of which I formerly prescribed ten to each dilution"! Again (p. 298), "If the patient is very sensitive, and it is necessary to employ the smallest dose possible, and attain at the same time the most speedy results, it will be sufficient to let him smell once to a phial that contains a globule the size of a mustard seed, imbibing the medicinal liquid to a very high degree. After the patient has smelled to it, the phial is to be re-corked, which will thus serve for years, without its medicinal virtues being impaired." These are some of the passages I had in my mind, when I stated that Dr. T. "never maintained, with homœopaths, that the half is greater than the whole, and that the millionth of a grain of medicine had more power than the whole grain." I referred to the treatment of disease, and I stand ready to prove, if further proof be wanted, that this hypothesis pervades the entire Organon, and is generally believed and practised upon by homœopaths. Nothing is more common than to hear them say, that the high dilutions are more powerful than the lower. When I stated that homœopaths believed that "the billionth of a grain of medicine has more efficacy than a pound," I did not mean to be understood literally, but in a general sense. All I wished to convey was, that they hold that these high dilutions, or infinitesimal doses, were more effectual in the removal of disease, than the large allopathic doses, in ordinary use. I have proved that this is the case, and I leave it then to the reader to infer whose is the "gratuitous misrepresentation."

New York, Nov. 3d, 1840.

Respectfully yours,

CHARLES A. LEE, M.D.

CASE OF STAMMERING.

BY EDW. WARREN, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

IN consequence of some Remarks on Stammering, written by me several years since, for the American Journal of Medical Science, individuals afflicted with this difficulty have in several instances been referred to me by my medical friends in Boston. I have generally directed them to gentlemen in New York and elsewhere, who made the treatment of this affection their principal business.

In the course of the month of July last, however, a young lady was referred to me by Dr. Reynolds, who could not visit New York, but who expressed so strong a desire of relief, that I was induced to promise her such assistance as was in my power. She was afflicted with the worst form of stammering; that in which the difficulty proceeds from stoppage of the voice, and in which the organs of articulation become secondarily affected. On the other hand, the intelligence of the patient,

her ardent desire to obtain relief, and her never having undergone any course of treatment, were favorable to the prospect of cure.

My efforts were successful beyond my expectation. From the time of the first lesson she spoke freely, and subsequently no one would have perceived any defect in her speech, even when she was placed in the most trying situation, or in the utterance of the words she formerly found it nearly impossible to articulate. The continuance of the lessons for a short period was necessary to confirm the habit of easy speech; but when I last saw her she considered herself perfectly cured.

I stated in the "Remarks" above alluded to, that experience was absolutely necessary for the treatment of these impediments. For this reason, I have hitherto directed those who applied to me to those more accustomed to communicating the necessary instructions. On the other hand, I was encouraged to undertake the cure in this case, from the consideration that no person could have received more instruction upon the subject, or have seen more of the affection in his own person and in others, than myself. The pupil ought to become qualified in his turn to be teacher.

Most of the methods that have been adopted for the cure of stammering are empirical, and what happens to succeed in one case, will aggravate in another. We rarely see an adult stammerer in whom it has not been confirmed by the efforts made to relieve him. The affection, however, is now much better understood than formerly, and there is at least one method (for all the successful methods depend upon the same principle) by which a cure can in nearly all cases be accomplished, unless it has been confirmed as above said. In some cases, indeed, the pupil does not possess sufficient intelligence, nor will he make sufficient exertion to be cured. With an intelligent pupil a surprising and decided effect may be produced at once; but it requires great labor both upon the part of the instructor and of the pupil, in most cases, to render the benefit permanent.

Having been successful in this case, I shall feel myself bound to attend to such patients of this description as may think it a sufficient object to consult me at my present residence.

Cambridge, Nov. 5th, 1840.

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CORONERS.

ENOUGH has been said in the English journals, from time to time, to convince any community of the propriety of appointing medical men to the office of coroner. The topic has been often discussed in the United States, but the old system still prevails, and therefore it not unfrequently happens, in some places, that the coroner is a person neither respected for his intelligence, acquirements, or moral standing. If it is true that physi-