

carmine must be so much more impressive than if it depended on its own intrinsic horribleness." I merely throw out this hint, as perhaps Mr. Ruskin's last sensational device, which will be found in "Sesame and Lillies, two lectures by John Ruskin, M.A.," may not have fallen in Dr. Cameron's way. I should like, I say, to see James M.—, to see how he looks after being "drained"—all the more that the case having been one "*affecting the membranous portion of the organ*," there was no possibility of suppuration of the liver at all. But then this is only a pathological fact, of no consequence to anyone but pottering pathologists like Drs. Aitken and Frerichs.

But to come closer to the question. One of the first things that must strike all men of tropical experience, in this paper of Dr. Cameron, is the opinion evidently entertained by him that suppurative inflammation of the liver is, as a rule, preceded by the violent symptoms he describes. The fact being that, save in cases of *peri-hepatitis*, where there is no tendency to suppuration at all, such symptoms as ardent fever, dyspnoea, acute pain, and such like, far from being, as Dr. Cameron appears to think, of frequent occurrence, when the parenchyma of the gland is involved, are altogether exceptional. Of all these symptoms acute pain is certainly most frequently absent, until the advancing abscess involves the investing membrane of the liver. I have careful bedside notes of a great many such cases, and I appeal to all careful observers,—physicians of Indian experience and reputation in their respective Presidencies,—whether hepatitis has, in their practice, presented such an array of symptoms as Dr. Cameron has described in justification of the prodigious depletion he advocates.

Again, with regard to Dr. Cameron's boast, "that his hospital was not encumbered with a number of pale, broken-down subjects for invaliding with *chronic hepatitis*, such as everyone familiar with Indian hospitals must remember, and such as are to be found daily in London consulting-rooms," Dr. Cameron, of course, attributes his exemption from such cases to the copious depletion he put in force. Now, I request Dr. Cameron's attention to the following fact:—In the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley are to be seen all the cases of chronic hepatitis sent, not only from India, but from every tropical station where British soldiers serve. All these cases pass under the observation of myself and my colleague, Dr. Fyfe, Staff Surgeon of the clinical wards. These cases are all carefully observed for teaching purposes, and I assure my readers that only an insignificant minority of them have a history of hepatitis at all. When carefully examined, they resolve themselves into cases of malarial enlargement, fatty degeneration, or enlargements associated with the syphilitic dyscrasia, and, not unfrequently in dram-drinkers, enlargements indicative of the early stages of cirrhosis. In one of my Annual Reports, extracts from which have been published in the departmental Blue-Book, I have enlarged on this subject, and shown that it would be well if the term *chronic hepatitis* were expunged from our nomenclature, as it is too often a mere cloak for want of accuracy in diagnosis.

Dr. Cameron, while urging these enormous bleedings, does not enlighten us much as to their after-effects on the constitutions of those who have been subjected to them beyond a general assertion that his patients are neither "pale" nor "broken down." Nay, we are assured that James M.—, the "hard-drinking, grey-headed, worn soldier of twenty years' service," was sent back to his duty after losing 158 ounces of blood in twenty-four hours, actually "fat and vigorous;" and Drs. Aitken and Frerichs are particularly called upon to note carefully this triumph of "practice *versus* theory." On this subject I desire to express myself very decidedly. So far from believing that tropical physicians are warranted in being thus prodigal of their patients' blood, I believe that nowhere is it more incumbent on us to be conservative of it than in India; for nowhere is it more difficult to replace it when once it has been spilt.

For my own part, I should feel more anxious than I do to controvert Dr. Cameron's doctrines if I were not aware that in these days there is little danger of their being generally put in force. I have said it elsewhere, and repeat it here, treatment such as Dr. Cameron advises is, now-a-days, much in the same position as certain penal statutes, which, although still on the statute-book, have become obsolete from the mere force of public opinion. Certain it is that in India in the present day it would be quite impossible to get educated men and women to submit to treatment which they believe to be mischievous, and know from daily observation to be unnecessary.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. C. MACLEAN, M.D.

Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, July 15th, 1865.

THE WRITING OF PRESCRIPTIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following case further illustrates the advisability of all medical practitioners writing their directions to prescriptions in English:—

A year or two since I was consulted by a clergyman, for whom I prescribed the following pills:—

R Strychniæ sulph., gr. i.
Conf. rosæ, q. s. ut ft. pil. xx.
Capiat pil. i. ter in die post cibum.

They were made up at a pharmaceutical chemist's in a large town, by the master of the establishment. I called a few days afterwards to see the result of the remedy, when, to my surprise, my patient had not taken a single pill, as he said he remembered me to have told him to take one pill thrice daily after meals; and, on looking at the lid of the pill-box, I found the druggist had written on for two to be taken three times a day before meals.

I think, with Dr. John Dixon, that all directions for the use of remedies should be written in plain English until we have a class of druggists who have given some assurance that they can dispense from Latin prescriptions.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. C. B. SMALLMAN, M.D.

Willingham, Gainsborough, July 31st, 1865.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—At a meeting of the Council held on the 10th inst.—

Stedman, James Remington, Guildford, was admitted a Fellow of this College; his diploma of membership is dated June 24th, 1839.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine and received certificates to practise on the 3rd inst:—

Browne, Edgar Althelstane, Horbury-crescent, Notting-hill.
Cockerton, Alfred John, Islington.
Denziloe, William Le Gros, Bridport, Dorset.
Lowe, John, Clarence-street, Greenwich.
Malim, George Warcup, Grantham.
Sainsbury, Henry, Hill-top, West Bromwich.
Stirling, William Boughton, London Hospital.
Tibbits, Herbert, Charterhouse-square.
Wiles, William, Mount-place, S.
Williams, Eytton Owen, Llanrhaadr, North Wales.

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their first examination:—

Addenbrooke, E. Homfray, Sydenham College, Birmingham.
Bailey, Thomas, University College.
Gurdon, Charles George, Guy's Hospital.
Harvey, Thomas, St. Thomas's Hospital.
Jenkins, John, Guy's Hospital.
Sangster, Charles, Guy's Hospital.
Thomas, William, Queen's College, Birmingham.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—The Library will be closed from Monday, August 14th, to Saturday, September 9th, both days inclusive.

MEDICAL MAGISTRATE.—Dr. Nicholas M'Cann, of Parliament-street, has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor, on the recommendation of the Lord Lieutenant, to the Commission of the Peace, both for the County of Middlesex and the City and Liberty of Westminster.

CONSTANCE KENT.—This convict still remains in the Wilts County Prison, at Fisherton, Salisbury, no communication having been received up to Saturday of her ultimate fate. Her demeanour is still calm and collected, and it is not true that she has signified any intention of making a further confession.

ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—The weekly meeting of this Board was held on Wednesday evening, in the Board-room at the Workhouse, Mint-street, Borough.

The Medical Officer (Dr. Brown) brought up a report upon the statement of THE LANCET Commissioner as to the condition of the workhouse, and it was read by the Clerk.

The Chairman thought they had better send a copy to THE LANCET.