

namely, that the different species of vegetable and animal existing throughout organic creation have emanated from different species of embryonic germs, and that these embryonic germs themselves have originated in a union of different species of simple organising agents, which union of these simple organising agents has been brought about by *organic affinity*. That is, in other words, this union of the different species of organising agents comprised in the embryonic germ has been brought about by the affinity naturally subsisting between one such species of organising agent and another, and that consequently the origin of the embryonic germs which have originated the species is the organic affinity referred to. . . . Such, then, is my opinion as to the origin of species,—namely, that the embryonic representatives of the different species were first formed by the operation of *organic affinity*, and that subsequently these embryonic representatives, as their special physiological function, developed the different species of vegetable and of animal.”—pp. 75, 77.

It is possible the above explanation of the thesis of Dr. Freke's memoir may lead some of our readers to desire a further acquaintance with the author's elaborated views “On the Origin of Species.” If so, it will be satisfactory to them to learn from us that Dr. Freke is very anxious to assure all such ardent inquirers that “nothing is advanced in this publication that is not perfectly in harmony with the Mosaic record of creation.” Whether Dr. Freke will have a large circle of readers is perhaps questionable, judging at least from the slight feeling of mistiness which now and then was associated with our endeavours to become masters of the argumentation.

*A Manual of Qualitative Analysis.* By ROBERT GALLOWAY, F.C.S. Third Edition. With Illustrations on Wood. London: John Churchill.

THE author's aim in writing this volume has been to furnish a suitable guide for the beginner—to make it, in fact, a student's book. In this object he has fully succeeded, as shown by the fact that a third edition has been called for in a very short space of time. The work has three special recommendations: it is brief, the arrangement is natural, and the descriptions are clear and simple; indeed it is just such a book as the student requires. In the present edition the author has added the photo-chemical methods of Cartmel and Bunsen, a paper by the latter chemist on his Blow-pipe Experiments, also various methods for the separation of the phosphates and oxalates precipitated by ammonia. The student cannot do better than become possessed of Galloway's “Qualitative Analysis.”

*The Portable Gymnasium: a Manual of Exercises arranged for Self-instruction in Home Gymnastics.* By FR. GUSTAV ERNST. pp. 72. London, 1861.

A SIMPLE and easy guide to the use of a machine, which probably may be found sometimes of benefit in cases where increased muscular movements can be enforced under the superintendence of a scientific and prudent medical adviser.

#### LEEDS MEDICAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of physicians and surgeons in Leeds on the 15th inst., convened by circular, Dr. WILSON in the chair, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

Proposed by Dr. CHADWICK, and seconded by Mr. SMITH,—“That we who are now present constitute ourselves into an Association for the purpose of maintaining the dignity of our profession, and of discouraging quackery in all its varied phases.”

Proposed by Mr. SAMUEL HEY, and seconded by Dr. HEATON,—“That a printed circular, extensively disseminated by the Messrs. Braithwaite, general practitioners in Leeds, be read by the Secretary, Mr. Nunneley, and laid on the table.”

(COPY.)

“Leeds, December, 1860.

“DEAR SIR,—Although we have lately taken our degrees as physicians, this will not alter our mode of conducting family

practice; neither shall we make any increase of our charges when attending our own patients, either alone or together, but only when attending in consultation with other medical practitioners, or when consulted at home by patients who are usually attended by other physicians or surgeons.

“With many thanks for past kindnesses,

“We remain, dear Sir, very sincerely yours,

“WILLIAM BRAITHWAITE, M.D.

“JAMES BRAITHWAITE, M.B. LOND.”

Proposed by Mr. CHORLEY, and seconded by Mr. JOSEPH TEALE,—“That the circular now read be considered by this meeting a gross infraction of the ordinary rules of etiquette, and disgracefully derogatory to our profession.”

Proposed by Mr. GARLICK, and seconded by Mr. MORLEY,—“That the members of this Association decline from this date to meet the Messrs. Braithwaite in consultation.”

Proposed by Dr. HARDWICK, and seconded by Mr. HOLWELL,—“That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be forwarded by the Secretary for publication in the next issue of THE LANCET.”

#### THE TREATMENT OF GOUT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Although everyone appears to be more or less learned in the treatment of gout, it will not be denied, I think, that something remains to be suggested for the relief of those terrible twinges which are experienced in the great toe and other joints. Without entering into any discussion on the pathology of gout, it would appear, from the peculiar manner in which tumefaction takes place, that this swelling does not wholly arise from a congested state of the bloodvessels, nor from the cedematous extravasation of fluid in the tissues; for, in the first place, howsoever high the part affected may be elevated, no apparent diminution in size is effected, nor, indeed, any sensible relief produced, nor is there often any pitting on pressure. It would seem that there is to a great extent an emphysematous puffiness, by which the bones and muscles are loosened from their mutual attachments, as is evidenced by the intense pain produced by lifting the foot off a sofa, and allowing it to hang for a moment, and observing the extraordinary expansion which takes place on putting the foot on the floor; and, indeed, this seems to be corroborated by, and to warrant, the following treatment. I shall best elucidate this by giving a case in point.

An elderly gentleman had gout in the left great toe, with considerable swelling of the foot. The pain was excruciating, and the “twinges” most fearful. He screamed out violently if anyone approached him, lest even the dress of a lady should come in contact with the toe. His sufferings were more acute than any, I think, I had ever witnessed. I suggested to him that by making steady pressure on the affected part he would gain magical relief. Had I proposed to cut his leg off he could not have been more startled. However, being a man of a resolute mind, he permitted me to place the palm of my hand gently, yet firmly, against the joint, and was not only astonished, but delighted, to find the relief it afforded. He then consented to the use of a bandage, which was thus applied. Having encased the foot in cotton wadding, so as to make the pressure more easily applied, I passed an elastic bandage twice round the ankle, crossing it, in the usual manner, over the dorsum of the foot, under the instep, and round the heel. I then carried it onwards, and gradually included the ball of the great toe and the toes generally. The pressure being progressive distad towards the seat of disease diminished the nervous sensibility of the part, and lessened the apprehension of the patient.

Immediately after the bandaging my patient fell asleep for the first time for four days and nights, and slept uninterruptedly for eleven hours. The other part of the medical treatment was of the usual character. But there is one other remedy which I rely on more than anything else, and that is, a large mustard plaster over the whole of the abdomen for fifteen or twenty minutes, to be re-applied as often as the skin will bear it. It instantly gives relief to the gout, it relieves dyspepsia, invigorates the digestive powers and the functions of the liver, as well as promotes a healthy action of the bowels, even when ordinary aperients have failed.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Hastings, March, 1861.

C. B. GARRETT, M.D.