

(3). Disinfection and individual prophylaxis against infectious disease.

(4). The preventable causes of disease, injury, and death in American manufactories and workshops, and the best means and appliances for preventing and avoiding them.

All essays in competition for these prizes must be in the hands of the secretary, Dr. Irving A. Watson, of Concord, N. H., on or before October 15, 1885, and the awards will be announced at the next meeting of the Association, in the second week of December, at Washington.

Dr. Fordyce Barker, the family physician of Gen. Grant, is reported to have recently given the following account of his condition: "Gen. Grant's health has improved very much during the past few weeks, and the swelling in his mouth, which a few weeks ago made it difficult for him to talk or eat, has subsided in a great measure. Some eight or ten weeks ago he was suffering from a swelling, accompanied by great pain, in the back of the tongue, and I called in Dr. J. H. Douglas for the purpose of applying local treatment. The General's smoking, in which he had been accustomed to indulge all his life to excess, seemed to irritate the tongue, although he was not conscious of its affecting his general system. We therefore advised him to cut down his smoking to the first half of three cigars a day, as we thought it probable that it was the nicotine which accumulated in the last half of the cigar that produced the irritation. He followed this advice for perhaps a week, and then gave up smoking entirely, apparently without the least disturbance to his nervous system, loss of sleep, or other unpleasant effect whatever. This was remarkable, as he had been smoking from twelve to fifteen cigars a day. The improvement in his condition since then is marvelous. Under treatment by muriate of cocaine not only has the pain been greatly diminished, but the capillary congestion of the tissues has in a large measure disappeared." Dr. Douglas intimated that the trouble in the tongue was of an epitheliomatous character. P. B. P.

MALIGNANT PUSTULES.

SEDALIA, Mo., Jan. 20, 1885.

DEAR JOURNAL:—In your issue of 17th inst., I notice a communication from Dr. Leech, Jefferson Medical College, relating to ulcers of fingers. While I do not approve of charging everything of this nature to syphilitic virus, it would certainly appear that in the cases cited there must have been some specific poison, as the ophthalmitis of the infant would clearly show. The character of the ulceration, also, in my mind, would suggest animal poison. Our literature upon the subject of localized pustulations is fearfully meagre, so far as causation is concerned. Having just had a patient suffering in like manner, I was fearful of grave results. No cause could be attributed for the local trouble. I was treating the patient for a neurosis. The general health was good. The disease first manifested itself as a small blood-blister, about as large as a split pea, on

the metacarpal phalange of the middle finger, right hand. The suppuration extended to the bone. The swelling involved the whole hand, and the general health was in consequence very much impaired. I have met with several instances of this kind within the last few years, and have suffered some three attacks myself, all on the right hand. These ulcers, to my mind, take on the form of braxy or malignant pustule, more than anything else. I will say, for the benefit of the doctor, that I now take the precaution to cauterize all abrasions about the hand before making digital examinations or having anything to do with surgical cases, and especially suppurating surfaces. Yours truly, JNO. W. TRADER.

RHINOLITH.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

My attention was called to the above subject by an article in a late medical journal. It recalled to my mind a case I had three years ago, in the person of a young gentleman 21 years of age, who had been suffering from nasal catarrh since quite young. Had been under the treatment, in the meantime, of many physicians for this affection. The young man was scrofulous in appearance. On making a careful examination of his nose, discovered well up in one nares a foreign body. It was easily reached by a pair of forceps and removed without difficulty, with some pain, followed by slight bleeding. The foreign body was about half an inch in diameter and flat; rather dish-shaped, or the shape of a large pearl button. The surface was rough like a mulberry. On sawing through the body it proved to be a rhinolith with an old-fashioned iron button, such as are used on the seats and backs of chairs and sofas, as a nucleus. The cross section presented very much the appearance of a renal calculus. Any history as to the length of time it had been there could not be gotten. He suffered no more from nasal catarrh after the removal of the rhinolith.

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BOOK REVIEWS.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, FOR THE YEAR 1884. Cloth, 521 pages with appendix.

A large part of the time of the Society was occupied in the discussion of the Code of Ethics. The following are quotations from the anniversary address, "The Reciprocal Attitude of the Medical Profession and the Community," by Alexander Hutchins, A.M., M.D.: "There is a medical science, but if medicine were a science only, there would be fewer medical schools than now exist." "The genius of true scholarship the wide world over, is the search for truth and its free gift to mankind." "Whether the time is ripe to hang a man on microscopic evidence, or whether the time will ever come when the special vibrio of the assassin shall be diagnosticated from