

may be the most important." Thus, last December, phosphate of *soda* was the best, and phosphate of lime injurious, because "*insoluble*"; now, phosphate of *lime* is the most important. If desirous of it, I hope he will try his skill at *quid nuncs* again.

Boston, April 9th, 1852.

W. M. CORNELL.

TAPE-WORM.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

AN Irish girl in the employ of L. Ingalls, Esq., of this place, on the 16th of Dec. last, was taken early in the morning with severe distress at the pit of the stomach, and retching. She soon felt her throat and mouth filled with something, which, on removing, she found a portion of a tape-worm. She drew from her mouth several pieces of considerable length, which she affirms were alive, and moved. While engaged in her work during the morning, she had another similar attack, and drew out a quantity more. This, together with the former, was put in a bowl of water, and was seen to move distinctly by the members of the family. It was brought to my office by Mr. Ingalls, in the evening, and consisted of six or seven pieces, measuring in the whole forty feet. I did not examine for the head at that time. On looking at it later, I found each of the several pieces nearly alike, larger in the middle, and tapering towards the ends. One end of each was very small and pointed, with very small points. The points at the other were much larger, say from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch. I know not whether there was a head on any of them or not. I have them now preserved in spirit. She had previously been in tolerable good health, and had never had medical attendance.

I saw her to-day, and learned from her that she has very often passed portions of tape-worm, but none since that time. She says she has raised it before, she thinks four or five times, and 'she thinks more than she did at this time. She states that she has always felt the symptoms above-mentioned, viz., great distress at the pit of the stomach, with violent retching, before it came up. She is rather fleshy at present, and suffers from pain in her side and epigastrium, but has no tenderness. Her appetite is good and pretty regular. Menstrua regular, and also her bowels. I have mentioned this case because I had met with no one similar, and seen no record of any, though others may have. I have shown the worm to several physicians of the vicinity, but no one has heard of such a case. If such are common, I shall only have exposed my ignorance; but that I am willing to do, if I can gain information thereby. If these be not common, would not this case warrant some effort at dislodging the parasite, when in the stomach, by the use of emetic medicines?

J. H. NUTTING, M.D.

Stafford Spa, Conn., March 22, 1852.