

want of them, cloths wet in some anodyne cold liquid, such as hop or poppy-leaf tea. After the inflammation is sufficiently reduced, solid opium is the best to allay the pain and tenesmus, and to check the discharges. Physic should be as much as possible avoided; and when necessary to use it, castor oil, alone or beat up with the yolk of egg in a few tablespoonsfull of spearmint tea, I have found the least irritating. If there should appear any danger of ulceration in protracted cases, I think the nitrate of silver, either combined with opium or henbane in dill, is the most effectual remedy.

In the few cases of examination after death, there has been more or less ulceration, with apparently healthy pus in various parts of the mucous membrane; and in one case nearly an ounce was found between the mucous and muscular coats. In another case the pus appeared to have formed between the muscular and peritoneal coats, and to have passed down and terminated in fistula in ano. In all cases the muscular coat showed traces of severe inflammation.

Stunstead, July 8, 1853.

M. F. COLBY, M.D.

DISUSE OF PORK AMONG THE SHAKERS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—An article appears in your Journal of the 6th inst., page 463, with the above caption. The said article says that “Shakers’ children, exposed to measles ‘among the world’s folks’ who were sick with the disease, did not imbibe the sickness, having remained perfectly well ever since.” “The reason given by the Shakers themselves why their children did not contract rubeola in this case, and why they are not liable to its invasion, is that they have never eaten pork.” I admire their wisdom in eschewing swine’s flesh as unclean, i. e., unhealthy meat; but I fear their reasoning and conclusion are based upon an imaginary theory only. If their deduction were correct, why do Jewish children and adult Israelites, who for hundreds of generations have not known the taste of pork, imbibe the disease or become affected with measles, like other sects and races who partake most bountifully of this meat? The Shakers’ reasoning partakes in an eminent degree of the physiological ideas of an eminent dentist, late of this city, who starved a rabbit forty-eight hours, then boiled a pound of green tea in a gallon of water down to a half pint—poured the liquid down the unoffending rabbit’s throat, and published this rare-bit of evidence as being a proof that tea was a deadly poison, as exhibited in the case of the unhappy rabbit that “keeled up” and died. This same eminent physiologist was in company with several professional (dental) gentlemen gathered together in the store of Jones, White & Co.’s dental depot, exchanging notes of wonderful dental operations—when the problem was started that mother Nature could be diverted from her usual physical formations by a very simple and cunning process. For example, he said—cut off a little dog’s tail, on the paternal and maternal sides, for several generations, and the canine posterity would be born (pupped) without any caudal extremity whatever. A

very lively, instructive, ingenuous as well as ingenious *conversazione* threw its volume of light upon this momentous physiological problem. The author being a capital theorist, held on to his argument with all the tenacity of a dogmatist, to the great amusement of Mr. Jones and myself. His opponents were gradually yielding ground; inch by inch they were giving way. Mr. ———'s eyes beamed triumphantly, as each moment was securing him a glorious victory—when a friend of mine, who had, with bold front, entered the physiological arena, demanded of me my opinion on the very interesting subject which was being so scientifically discussed. I quietly observed, "not wishing to place the Jewish people on a par with the subject in question, yet physiologically the facts were the same; that for four thousand years the children of Israel had performed the religious rite of circumcision, and they were still born naturally with the prepuce as before the time of Abraham and his son Isaac." The argument closed, and the meeting adjourned *sine die*.

Very respectfully, A. C. CASTLE, M.D.

New York, July, 1853.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, AUGUST 3, 1853.

The late Charles Caldwell, M.D.—From the Louisville, Ky., Courier, we copy the following synopsis of the principal events in the life of Dr. Caldwell, whose decease was mentioned in the Journal last week, together with some just comments on the literary and scientific character of that remarkable man.—"He was about ninety years of age, and probably the oldest physician in the United States, and enjoyed the greatest celebrity as a medical writer and teacher. He did more than any one to enlighten the public and the profession on the origin of yellow fever, and clearly illustrated the absurdity of quarantines. Some years before the Asiatic cholera invaded Europe as an epidemic, Prof. Caldwell predicted that in one respect cholera would prove a blessing to mankind, by teaching the worthlessness of quarantine regulations, and the vital necessity of attention to all the laws of sanitary science; and this prediction, as full and clear as the history of the epidemic can be made now, has been verified in every particular. This prophetic prediction of the venerable teacher was recently made the conclusion of an invaluable report on cholera, published by the British Parliament.

"At the commencement of his medical career, Prof. Caldwell settled in Philadelphia, and won great distinction. Among the writers and investigators of that period, Dr. Caldwell was the greatest. He towered above his contemporaries, as a tall monument springs from the plain.

"In addition to Dr. Caldwell's luminous and voluminous labors upon all the important questions of medical science, all subjects of public interest felt the benefit of his intellect. His papers on Quarantines, Malaria, and Temperaments, are among the best in the English language on those topics. His treatises on Physical Education, on the Unity of the Human Race, and on Phrenology, have rarely been equalled. Every thing he