

ON THE GASTRIC JUICE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

It is known that the vitality of some vegetables and some animals is not destroyed by frost. I have proved, by experiments, that a similar law exists in regard to the human gastric juice; and for the first time, in the annals of science, as I believe. It may gratify curiosity, if it be not otherwise useful, to have the fact recorded. This juice is known to be a vital secretion, done by the stomach, instead of a chemical retort. It must, therefore, be more physiological, to regard it as a vital, rather than a chemical, menstruum. Neither do we regard the menstrual secretion as chemical.

In illustration, two drachms of gastric juice were given to me by the well-known Dr. Beaumont, when he was in New London, as taken by his tube from the stomach of ALEXIS ST. MARTIN, the once wounded and now mutilated Canadian. This has now been kept in a small phial six years, winter and summer, in a room without fire. I have seen it frozen and thawed, I know not how many times. It is now as clear, sweet and fresh as it was when it first came into my possession. It doubtless could be made to digest animal and vegetable food. It does not freeze so readily as water. It freezes at 10 or 12 degrees below the freezing point of the common thermometer. Would any other human juice resist the destructive action of frost to such a degree? The menstrual secretion has been kept, in a phial, in good condition for many years; yet whether frozen or not, is not told.

Finally, *scientific secrets* have ceased to be fashionable; unless some, in anatomy and physiology, as that of the brain, be an exception. We are now encouraged, by law, to speak, write and publish on all subjects whatever. This last act must, however, often be done at one's own expense, if done at all, for readers often neglect to pay for what may be published; and likewise for other goods or stationary. The Pilgrim's Progress in Phrenology, and other physiological and medical books, as those of Bichat, cannot be sold, save to a few. Correct intention may be shown by the publication of a book, if it be not much sold. Its views may be promulgated by others. ELISHA NORTH, M.D.

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MEDICAL EDUCATION.

A PAMPHLET, re-printed from the Eclectic Journal of Medicine for April, 1840, has astonished us by its developments. The title-page reads thus: "*An Essay on the means of improving Medical Education, and elevating Medical Character. By Andrew Boardman, M.D. Presented to the Faculty of Geneva College, January, 1840.*" The essay, as discoverable