

The "horrible sweetness" and nausea caused by sodium salicylate, of which Dr. Sinclair complains, can be effectually concealed and prevented by the use of the drug dry, in capsules of wafer paper.

Lastly, Dr. Hill may be assured that no harm can be done by sodium salicylate in fifteen-grain doses, nor from double that amount if reasonable care be taken. I have, however, seen five cases die in a manner similar to that he describes, with delirium and hyperpyrexia. In these cases it is waste of time to use drugs, and the cold bath is the only method by which we may hope to save life.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Leeds, Feb. 9th, 1880.

ERNEST H. JACOB, M.B.

REMOVAL OF STONE FROM THE BLADDER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With your permission I wish to make a remark or two on the leading article in your last issue concerning Dr. Bigelow and Lithotripsy. The writer, with a natural desire to be just to the American surgeon, is perhaps scarcely fair to his countrymen, the English lithotritists, and particularly to Mr. Clover.

Clover's india-rubber aspirator cannot be classed with Crampton's glass receiver, which was exhausted by an air-pump every time it was applied. Clover was the first to render aspiration of the bladder easy, simple, and practicable. All recent aspirators are identical in principle with Clover's, his instrument having been in them only modified by augmenting its power and increasing the size of the evacuating catheter. It is incorrect to say that the original aspirator only removed "pulverulent matter," since it has been employed for years to withdraw fragments and calculi as large as peas; as may at any time be verified by an examination of Sir Henry Thompson's collection of crushed stones, hundreds of which have been removed by its use.

Long before Dr. Bigelow turned his attention to lithotripsy stones of small size were often removed in this country at one operation by means of the lithotrite and Clover's apparatus. During the last six years I have seen more than most men of modern lithotripsy, and I have never seen a sitting not followed by the effective use of Clover's instrument.

Dr. Bigelow's method appears to be successful; and if the result of experience proves it to be so, it must be considered an important improvement in lithotripsy, but not an "entirely new" operation. It is, in fact, the latest development of the original operation of Civiale, at first so rude; and it is very possible that future improvements will render lithotripsy more perfect than it is at present. In regard to the question of improvement, however, an important point remains. It undoubtedly has still to be proved that evacuating catheters of the size Bigelow recommends can be invariably used with safety, or that unfortunate results have not already been produced by their use.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Wimpole Street.

G. BUCKSTON BROWNE.

THE "ANNALS OF CHEMICAL MEDICINE."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your issue of January 31st contains a notice of the "Annals of Chemical Medicine," &c., edited by me, in which it is stated that the materials of which the volume was composed had already appeared in various repertories of original information. This statement is entirely unfounded. No less than nineteen articles out of the twenty-three making up the volume have never been published by me before. Only four articles contain matter previously published by me, and of these one is an abbreviated summary from three different publications, while another is a consolidated extract of at least half a dozen different papers dispersed in chemical and physiological journals. It is next stated in this notice that I had excluded the productions or contributions of fellow-workers. This statement, too, is entirely unfounded. I have announced in the preface (p. vii.) that I hope to merit the countenance of the profession mainly by presenting the researches and observations of others, and that only from time to time would I venture to direct attention to work more particularly my own, and this, as the context shows, mainly on public grounds. My own researches in the volume

thus play a very modest part, as compared to the researches of more than one hundred and eighty authors quoted in the text and enumerated alphabetically at the end of the volume. So far from wishing to exclude authors or fellow workers, I, on the contrary, invite them to aid me, and that in the clear statement—"All contributions of original information, whether these be the result of observation or experiment, will be as welcome as deductive or inductive meditation, provided only they are based upon the data and principles of actual science."

I can hardly believe that the author of the notice in question has read the list of contents of the new volume. The perusal of the whole of the preface would have saved him from the grave errors of his statements; the perusal in a cursory way of even some of the articles would have shown him that the title of "Annals of Chemical Medicine, &c.," is by no means "misleading," but, on the contrary, expresses correctly, and in accordance with many precedents in other branches of science, what the volume contains, and what future volumes are intended to offer. In only one point is the writer of the notice correct—namely, in the confidence that I shall endeavour to bring the contents of the "Annals" up to the highest attainable scientific standard, "by the observation of the law of the most accurate methods, and the avoidance of ephemeral sensational productions."

I trust, therefore, that you will do me the justice to reconsider this matter, withdraw the erroneous statements which I have pointed out, and give to the profession a correct account of the contents of the volume, either by publishing this letter in your next issue, or by giving a second amended notice in accordance with actual fact, or by reprinting the enclosed prospectus and list of contents, or both. Some such reparation is demanded, not only by my sense of honour, but also, I doubt not, by your own.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. L. W. THUDICHUM, M.D.

Pembroke-gardens, Kensington, W., Feb. 3rd, 1880.

* * With reference to the absence of original communications in Dr. Thudichum's periodical, we failed to discover by either external or internal evidence that any of the twenty-three articles were contributed by other pens than his own. Dr. Thudichum may be quite correct in stating that no less than nineteen articles out of the twenty-three have never been published before by him, but we were strongly impressed with the belief that the materials in some form or other had appeared in "various repertories of original information." We did not, however, nor do we, censure Dr. Thudichum for this; what we do object to is that Dr. Thudichum, as editor of a periodical intended, and *likely*, to be useful in the general advancement of a particular branch of science, and for which he solicits "the kind attention and generous support of the medical profession," should preface its pages with a serious statement with regard to leading physiologists and chemists in this country and abroad, men whom he admits to be of "externally high position," charging them with "absence of knowledge," and with writing papers full of "pretended convictions," "hazardous opinions," and "mere claptrap." The passage which we *quoted*, from Dr. Thudichum's preface, gave us reason to fear that a work in which we are much interested might not fully represent the general progress in the branch of science it is designed to benefit.—ED. L.

THE BEARER CORPS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having read in your paper of the 7th inst. a very interesting article on the working of Surgeon-Major Hector's Bearer Company at the storming of Seccocoeni's stronghold, without wishing to detract from the merits of Dr. Hector, permit me to point out that your correspondent is in error when he states that this Bearer Company was the "first regularly trained and disciplined one present in action with our troops."

At the request of Surgeon-General Woolfryes, C.B., the principal medical officer in South Africa, I organised a Bearer Company at Durban in March last, specially for the