

During the four years that Crowley was at the Park menagerie he had several severe attacks of pneumonia, and the greatest possible care was always taken of him, both in sickness and health. The autopsy was made the day after his death by Dr. William Gotheil, who found the animal very badly diseased. The left lung was practically useless, and was firmly bound down by old adhesions, while there were evidences of pleurisy in the right lung, and the immediate cause of death was ascribed to congestion of that organ. Abundant tubercular deposits were found in many parts of the body, notably the liver, and there was marked fatty degeneration of the heart. There were also evidences of an old peritonitis, and the lymphatic glands were in a state of chronic enlargement. The brain, which is to be thoroughly examined by Dr. E. C. Spitzka, was entirely healthy in its gross appearances, and weighed about one-third of that of the average adult human brain. The convolutions representing the functions of speech were four in number—considerably less than in the human subject.

Both the skeleton and the stuffed skin of the dead chimpanzee are to be mounted and placed on exhibition in the admirable collection of the American Museum of Botanical History, on the west side of the Park. A new section of this institution, which will ultimately be of immense size, is now in course of erection; the legislature having last year appropriated the sum of \$400 for the purpose. In the new building there will be a handsome lecture-room, with a seating capacity of 1500. During the past year a number of important additions have been made to the Museum, including the Lawrence collection of American birds, numbering 12,000 specimens; a collection of 4000 Brazilian birds, and the Elliot ornithological library, of over 1000 volumes.

A death has been reported here from chlorate of potassium, two half ounce doses having been taken in mistake for iodide of potassium.

Among the recent arrivals in this city are the eminent surgeon, Professor von Esmarch, of Kiel, and his wife, the Princess Henrietta of Schleswig-Holstein, who is a near relative of the present Empress of Germany. They are accompanied by their son, Dr. Ervin von Esmarch. They were met down the Bay by a number of friends, and escorted to the residence of Dr. Frederick Lange; and a few days afterward a reception was tendered the distinguished party at Terrace Garden. At this entertainment the Princess presented 1200 marks for distribution among the Schleswig-Holstein poor resident in New York. P. B. P.

MEDICAL EDUCATION OF THE LAITY.—*The New York Medical Journal* in a recent editorial on this subject says: What the laity need is not to be more thoroughly instructed in medical science, but to be taught to distinguish between the true and the false, between the charlatan and the honest conscientious physician.

Reply to the Criticism of Dr. Robert Newman.

Dear Sir:—Dr. Newman says:

1st. "Is it sound logic to condemn an operation and method because a *novice* (italics mine) has made a failure in a few cases, when surgeons of undoubted standing from all parts of the world have reported hundreds of successful cases?" etc.

I treated six cases in succession by electrolysis, and not one was benefited. After such a fair trial was I justified in wasting the time and patience of my patients any further? Treating a patient two months without improvement does not add greatly to one's reputation. Have not surgeons of still more undoubted standing from all parts of the world condemned the treatment? Need I repeat their names to Dr. Newman?

2d. "Why was not the cystitis treated first?"

It would be as logical to treat an acute inflammation of the eye caused by a foreign body and then remove the foreign body, as to try and cure the cystitis first and then remove the strictures. The cystitis was a *result* of the strictures.

3d. "Had the gentleman carefully read my papers he would not have made his paper a personal attack."

I deny the personal attack statement. I simply used the name of Dr. Newman (also one other) as being the exponent of a method that I had found by experience, although at first prejudiced in its favor, to be of no value. My experience conforms also to the experience of the first genito-urinary surgeons in Dr. Newman's own city. My paper was written from a purely scientific standpoint. Persons with a hobby are apt to be very sensitive.

4th. "I . . . do not enlarge the urethra to a certain theoretical size, but mark in my statements "cured," when the patient feels and is well, passes a free, unobstructed stream, and is satisfied with his condition to such a degree that he objects to any further treatment and enlargement, and does not desire a larger-sized urethra."

I do not claim that a patient should have his urethra enlarged to a "certain theoretical size;" every patient his own individual standard as can be demonstrated with the urethrometer, but "when the patient feels well, passes a free unobstructed stream, and is satisfied with his condition." I do not by any means concede that he is cured. I make that concession only when the bulbous bougie or urethrometer fails to discover a stricture. As long as a *stricture* still remains there is the exciting cause for a gleet or cystitis. Dr. Newman apparently leaves the patient to be the judge as to when a cure is effected.

5th. "It is easier to enter the urethra with the tapering instrument than with a six-sizes larger egg-shaped bulb."

"Goodness Gracious!" and the doctor even

diagrams it for fear his readers could not comprehend so wonderful a problem. Some of us use steel sounds that are not tapering, so that the extended argument about tapering instruments is all wasted.

6th. "The next mistake Dr. Thomas makes, is in saying that some patients were discharged with their urethras admitting only a No. 14 French."

And then Dr. Newman, in the same breath, admits that one improved very slowly to No. 14 and something prevented his return. If I had more leisure time I would hunt up the record of the other case, but as the doctor drops one-half of his *casus* it is hardly worth my while to hunt up the other half.

7th. "Dr. Thomas does not state in his report of the single case, how he used the electrolysis, nor does he tell what his most approved apparatus was."

The battery I used was a McIntosh galvanic. My electrode bougies were those made by Truax & Co., and are identical, I believe, with those used by Dr. Newman. The electrode (negative) two sizes larger than the stricture was placed against the face of the stricture, the current turned on, beginning with one cell, and gradually adding cell by cell until the current was quite perceptible to the patient, and at the same time making steady but gentle pressure. Before removing the electrode the current was gradually diminished; séance lasting from fifteen to twenty minutes.

8th. "Candidly I do not envy any one who can use such language, and I leave it to my readers to surmise what animus has prompted him."

Any one reading my previous article can see at once that I was honest and after the truth—even an enthusiast. The "animus" requires no "surmise;" it is plain.

To show to what extremes some reporters may go, Mr. Editor, please permit me to give you this excerpt from a journal lying before: "Mr. H. M., merchant, æt. 28, has had stricture of the meatus and gleet for two years. This case was very slow in consequence of the *very great contraction* (Italics mine), and subacute inflammation setting in from the slightest manipulation. I finally disregarded the inflammatory condition, and with a flexible conical electrode bougie, No. 24 French, and 18 cells of a Stammers' battery, worked through, and thoroughly broke down the stricture. Quite a high grade of inflammation was set up, which soon subsided, leaving the meatus free from all contraction. . . . He has remained well up to this time (four years). This case illustrates the fact that electrolysis will substitute internal incision, even at the meatus."

Very great contraction means one of filiform calibre. To work through a stricture of this

kind with a No. 24 bougie at one sitting is almost incredulous, and under conditions when electrolysis is entirely contraindicated by the teachings of Dr. Newman. Did the electrode go through by causing absorption, or did it burn through, or did it go through *volens volens*?

J. D. THOMAS, M.D.

Pittsburg, Sept. 12, 1888.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA.—The Nineteenth Annual Session of the Medical Society of Virginia, will convene at 8 P.M., Tuesday, October 23, 1888, in Norfolk, Va. Dr. Herbert M. Nash, of Norfolk, Va., will deliver the *Address of Welcome*. Dr. Wm. T. Walker, of Lynchburg, Va., will deliver the *Annual Address to the Public and Profession*. Subject, "Moses and other Doctors." Dr. Benjamin Blackford, of Lynchburg, Va., will deliver the *President's Address*. Subject, "The Progress of Medical Education, and the Importance of the Study of the Physical Sciences in relation thereto during School Life."

The Society will nominate to the Governor of Virginia for appointment, as members of the Medical Examining Board of Virginia, for the term of four years, beginning January 1, 1889, thirty-two regular practitioners of medicine in Virginia, as follows: Two from the State at large, and three from each of the ten Congressional Districts of the State.

The night session will begin about 7:30 o'clock with the call for reports on advances in the several departments of the medical sciences. The following order will be observed until adjournment to Thursday morning when the call will be continued until this order is completed—no paper to exceed thirty minutes in reading:

Advances in Anatomy and Physiology.

Advances in Chemistry, Pharmacy, Materia Medica and Therapeutics.—In this Section the following paper will be presented: "The Carbon Compounds—Their True Place in the Treatment of Fevers; or the Particular Forms of Fever in which They are Indicated," Dr. S. K. Jackson, of Norfolk, Va.

Advances in Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.—In this Section the following paper will be presented: "Conduct of Enceinte Women before and after Confinement," Dr. Wm. L. Robinson, of Danville, Virginia.

Advances in Practice of Medicine.—In this Section the following papers will be presented: "The Uric Acid Diathesis," Dr. J. Spotswood Wellford, of Richmond, Va. "The Development of Medicine, Dr. M. A. Rust, of Richmond, Va. "The Duty of the Doctor to his Patient Suffering under Malignant Disease," Dr. William W. Parker, of Richmond, Va. "Thirty-two Years' Experience as a Country Practitioner," Dr. Charles R. Cullen, of Richmond, Va.

Advances in Surgery.—In this Section the following papers will be presented: "Exploration of the Bladder for Obscure Diseases of that Viscus," Dr. Hunter McGuire, of Richmond Va.—By invited guest, Dr. Milton Josiah Roberts, of New York, N. Y.

Advances in Ophthalmology, Otology and Laryngology.—In this Section the following paper will be presented: "Enlarged Tonsils—What Shall We do With Them?" Dr. Charles M. Shields, of Richmond, Va. "Improved Means of Diagnosis in Throat and Nasal Troubles, with Remarks on Treatment," Dr. Joseph A. White, of Richmond, Va.

Advances in Hygiene and Public Health.

Advances in Psychology and Neurology.

In addition to the above reports, by resolution adopted at the last annual session, Drs. Wm. W. Parker, of Richmond, Va., Dr. Wm. P. McGuire, of Winchester, Va., and