

dangerous thing: it often leads them to talk a lot of sorry nonsense to their patients.

Speaking for myself, I can truly say that my knowledge of physiology has not in any way helped me to lead a healthy life. All that the public need know in regard to the preservation of health can be set down in a surprisingly small compass. To attempt to disseminate a knowledge of physiology—be it of the generative or any other system—is, in my belief, to mix up the issues in a jangle of mere words, and to obscure what is after all transparently simple.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Wimpole-street, W., Jan. 23rd, 1915. HARRY CAMPBELL.

ANATOLE FRANCE AND MORALITY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Mr. D'Arcy Power's lecture in your issue of to-day is admirable in every way, but it is strange to find the works of Anatole France recommended as food for the chaste.

The finest stylist of present-day French literature is one of the "unmorals," and there are only one or two of his books which do not contain descriptions of intimate amatory relationships, clothed in beautiful but none the less smutty language. France is an artist pure and simple, and decidedly not for *la jeune fille* or her brother. These remarks apply to the works in the original. I have no knowledge of the English translations, but have often heard them described as poor.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
A. M. ROSS, M.B.

Waterfoot, near Manchester, Jan. 23rd, 1915.

EMETINE INJECTIONS IN AMŒBIC DYSENTERY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It may be of interest to record results of the treatment of amœbic dysentery by hypodermic injections of emetine hydrochloride in an out-patient practice. In the space of 11 months 27 cases were treated and in all cases the symptoms quickly disappeared and the patients were so struck with the result that they came back for more injections even after they were apparently cured. We commenced with injections of gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ which was given on dispensary days—i.e., three times a week—but soon the dose was raised to gr. $\frac{1}{2}$, gr. $\frac{2}{3}$, and lastly to gr. 1. The majority of cases received gr. 1 at each injection with most satisfactory results. Gr. 1 gave the best and quickest result and no untoward result was ever complained of or observed. It is interesting to note that once, when the stock of hypodermic tabloids had run short, a half-grain tabloid of emetine was given internally, and when the patient was next seen he reported that on his way home he had severe vomiting and diarrhoea. As all were treated as out-patients they could not be restricted to a liquid diet. All the cases except one were chronic, lasting from one month to four years. The number of motions averaged about ten in the 24 hours; two had 16 and one 30 motions. All patients showed remarkable improvement after the first or second injection; the hæmorrhage greatly decreased or stopped altogether, straining was much less or quite gone, the number of motions considerably diminished, and the stools became fæcal. The pallor disappeared, and the pained expression of the face entirely altered after a few injections. As a rule no other drug was given, and

the majority of cases had no symptoms of the disease after four or five injections. In the case which had lasted four years all symptoms disappeared after the third injection of 1 gr. emetine hydrochloride. Two cases had recurrence of their symptoms and came back for treatment about three weeks after the cessation of the emetine injections. One of these cases had a third relapse after six months, when he attended the dispensary for a week, and had three 1 gr. injections and was apparently cured.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,
F. J. HARPUR, M.B.
W. B. HADDAD, M.D.

Church Missionary Society, Achmoun Menoufeyah, Egypt.

LEECHES AND THE WAR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Our country has been for many months suffering from a serious shortage of leeches. As long ago as last November there were only a few dozen leeches left in London, and they were second-hand.

Whilst General Joffre, General von Kluck, General von Hindenburg, and the Grand Duke Nicholas persist in fighting over some of the best leech areas in Europe, possibly unwittingly, this shortage will continue, for we have for many years largely depended on importations from France and Central Europe.

In November I made some efforts to alleviate the situation by applying to America and Canada, but without success. I then applied to India, and last week, owing to the kindness of Dr. Annandale, director of the Indian Museum at Calcutta, to the officers of the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company, and to Colonel A. Alcock, M.D., of the London School of Tropical Medicine, I have succeeded in landing a fine consignment of a leech which is used for blood-letting in India. It is true that the leech is not the *Hirudo medicinalis* of our pharmacopœias, but a different genus and species, *Limnatis granulosa*. Judging by its size, always a varying quantity in a leech, we may have to readjust our ideas as to a leech's cubic capacity, yet I believe, from seeing them a day or two ago, they are willing and even anxious to do their duty. They have stood the voyage from Bombay and the changed climatic conditions very satisfactorily, and are in a state of great activity and apparent hunger at 50, Wigmore-street, London, W.

It is true that leeches are not used to anything like the extent they were 80 years ago—Paris alone about 1830 employed some 52 millions a year—but still they are used, though in much smaller numbers. It may be of some consolation to my fellow-countrymen to know that our deficiency in leeches is more than compensated by the appalling shortage of sausage-skins in Middle Europe. With true German thoroughness they are trying to make artificial ones.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
A. E. SHIPLEY.

Christ's College Lodge, Cambridge, Jan. 27th, 1915.

THE ASYLUM SERVICE AND BELGIAN REFUGEE DOCTORS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is stated in the *Daily Telegraph* of Jan. 20th that the Commissioners hope soon to have Belgian doctors available for employment in the asylum service. Both editorially and in many