

"That which should be thrust aside—shovelled out, as it were—is detained within the organization;" these all-important facts being positively determined, "consumption" is as absolutely within human control as small-pox; and that

"There need now be no more consumption, no more scrofula, and diseases which have actually advanced as civilization itself has advanced henceforth, now, indeed, and for ever, may be set aside."—Preface.

"For the first time in the history of the disease, I would proclaim that phthisis is absolutely within our control—that no one need become consumptive who does not choose it."—p. 19.

Consolation of consolations truly!

Dr. M'Cormac dedicates his book to Dr. Copland, as one having "the clearest of intellects." Well, the latter has just affirmed, in the last part of the "Dictionary," that

"The inhalation by the healthy of the emanations from the lungs and skin of the consumptive, and the consequent appearance of the disease in the former, may, as in other cases of infection, be productive of its injurious effects only in the circumstances now stated, but the disease is caused by infection nevertheless."—*Op. cit.*, Part XVIII., p. 1125.

Whilst, according to Dr. M'Cormac,

"Morton, Morgagni, and others maintained this opinion, now almost entirely exploded from all rational pathology. Consumption is not communicated by any infection, any contagion, any more than a fractured limb is so communicated."—p. 14.

No one can be more fully alive than we are to the very important parts played by in-door avocations, and the breathing of foul air, amongst the several exciting causes which tend to the open manifestations of tuberculosis in those predisposed to it through the scrofulous dyscrasia; but we are far from believing that no other conditions than the above are neither generally present or necessary; nor can we as yet participate in Dr. M'Cormac's (to us) delusion, that phthisis

"Is not only, when taken early, *very often* removable, but what is of still greater importance, that, with proper means and appliances, it is in *every single instance* preventible."—p. 54.

*Elements of Psychological Medicine.* By DANIEL NOBLE, M.D., Visiting-Physician to the Clifton-Hall Retreat. Second Edition. London: Churchill. 1855.

THE appearance of this, the second edition of Dr. Noble's excellent work, recalls to our mind the gratification we experienced on reviewing the first edition. The recollection of that feeling could not fail to arouse the expectation of further pleasure in the perusal of this development and ampler illustration of the author's experience and opinions. Nor have we been disappointed. But since we analyzed the work on its first appearance at some length, we do not think it necessary, at present, to enter upon a minute criticism. It is enough to say, that in this edition, although the fundamental doctrines of the author are not altered in any material point, he has considerably added to the matter, and has so remodelled the entire work, as to give it the character of a systematic treatise.

## ON MR. TOYNBEE'S ARTIFICIAL MEMBRANA TYMPANI.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is not my purpose to enter into the merits of the dispute between Messrs. Toynbee and Yearsley; but I have thought the following case, as an independent testimony to the value of the former gentleman's invention, might be read with interest by some of your readers:—

C. F.—, when five years of age, had a severe attack of scarlatina, followed by otorrhoea in both ears. She was placed under the care of one of the most eminent aural surgeons of the metropolis at that time, who ordered medicines to improve her general health, blisters to be applied behind, and lotions, drops, &c., within the ears. She was under treatment, off and on, for nearly two years, and as little or no benefit accrued, her friends were advised to wait until she reached the age of

puberty, when, if no improvement in the hearing took place, it was to be considered useless, if not dangerous, to try further remedies.

In Nov., 1853, I was attending one of the sisters of this young lady, when my attention was directed to her case. She was in her sixteenth year, well developed, and had menstruated regularly about twelve months. No improvement in hearing had taken place. She was unable to hear, except when spoken to loudly, and could not join in general conversation. She could not hear sermons or lectures, or enjoy music. She was habitually disposed to be gloomy, and cared little for society. There was an offensive, yellowish discharge from both ears. It was not without some reluctance on the part of her friends that she was allowed to accompany me to Mr. Toynbee's house. On examination of the ears, it was instantly seen that both membranes tympani were perforate, and consequently the case was a fit one for the artificial membranes. As soon as they were applied, the improvement in her hearing was manifest. As there was considerable congestion of the tympanic mucous membrane, blisters were applied behind the ears, and kept open for some time; the ears to be syringed three times a day with tepid water, and a few drops of a lotion, composed of one grain of chloride of zinc to an ounce of distilled water, applied and allowed to remain in the meatus. In the course of a fortnight she was able to wear the artificial membranes, and has continued to do so up to the present time, just two years. She can now hear sermons and lectures without difficulty, enjoy music and singing at concerts, and join in ordinary conversation. She is cheerful and fond of company. Her friends think the change wrought in her *almost miraculous*. There is still some discharge from the ears, and she is obliged to syringe them occasionally. She procures the membranes, cut to the proper size from her own pattern, of Messrs. Weiss, of the Strand; sometimes they will last in use a month, while not unfrequently, from their catching in or being moved by the hair, as in dancing, they will get broken or damaged in much less time. At my suggestion, she used to bend the wire or handle of the membrane upon itself at about the middle, and by that means no part of it was liable, under ordinary circumstances, to project beyond the meatus externus; but I believe the handles are now made shorter than when they were first introduced. She has also found from experience that it is better to take out the membranes at night before going to bed, wash them, and let them dry, rather than leave them in water, as recommended by Mr. Toynbee. Under the former plan they retain their elasticity better, and do not decay or become detached so soon.

It may be mentioned that she thinks she can hear at the present time a little better without the membranes than she could before she ever wore them, but the improvement is very slight.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Beaufoy-terrace, Maida Vale, Nov. 1855.

W. F. CLEVELAND.

## COD-LIVER OIL AND QUININE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I had thought that most chemists were aware that pure quinia (like other resins) was soluble in oils and spirits. Cod-liver oil *with quinine*, which at the present time seems to attract so much attention, and have so many claimants for its discovery, is *easily* prepared by the following process:—

First prepare the quinia by dissolving two drachms of the disulphate in half a pint of water, acidulated with two drachms of dilute sulphuric acid; then precipitate by the addition of one drachm and a half of liquor ammonia; project on a filter, and wash the precipitate with four or five ounces more water. When the precipitate has been well drained, scrape off, and introduce it into an evaporating pan, and set it over a steam-bath: the heat will cause the quinia to *melt*, and separate from the residual water; this should be poured off, and the quinia collected on a filtering-paper to dry, when it may be finely powdered and preserved for use.

To prepare the oil: Take sixteen grains of the quinia, and dissolve in eight ounces of cod-liver oil by means of a *gentle* heat; the oil will become slightly coloured. This, however, is best obviated by dissolving the quinia in a mixture of one drachm each of ether and alcohol, and mixing the solution with the oil, and then evaporating the spirit by means of a steam-bath.

If the oil requires filtration, it should be passed through a piece of lint, loosely placed on the neck of a funnel. Every ounce of the oil will contain two grains of quinia.

I am Sir, yours truly,

The Laboratory, Cheltenham, 1855.

JOHN HORSLEY.