

advances that have, of late years, been made in the science of chemistry have made us so much better acquainted with the substances used in medicine, that the chemical composition of many of the preparations formerly thought to be accurate, is found to be quite the reverse, and the nomenclature of many of the preparations to be incorrect. This part of the subject the writer has illustrated by an analysis of several of the preparations contained in the Pharmacopœia, and in those which are chemically incorrect suggests such alterations as will obviate all the evil now complained of: take, for instance, the liquor ferri alkalini (solution of alkaline iron), which, independent of the absurdity of its name, can never be exhibited without decomposition; as a substitute for this preparation, the writer gives a formula for preparing the liquor ferri oxygenate (solution of oxygenated iron), which forms an elegant and valuable chalybeate. Again, those medicines which derive their names from the substances which they contain, and the composition of which substances is now known by the aid of recent analysis, to be different from what they were formerly supposed, are consequently now called by names which, at present, are quite absurd; thus, since chlorine has been ascertained to be the base of muriatic acid, all those substances, now called muriates, ought to be called chlorates; therefore the name of hydraogryri oxymurias (oxymuriate of mercury) is at present improper, and should be changed for *deuto-chloride* of mercury, which most judiciously designates its chemical character.

These and various other useful alterations, the writer in this article throws out for the consideration of the College.

That a body with such high pretensions as those to which the College lays claim, should be tardy, and even unwilling, to correct any errors which may happen to exist in its Pharmacopœia, must very much tend to lessen the respect and dignity it wishes the profession to entertain for it. Particularly as every one may see that private individuals, one after another, in rapid succession, have long ago pointed out mistakes which the College have left uncorrected, nay, even unacknowledged. When we consider that the College of Physicians is a corporate body, and that the motives which operate on private individuals act with comparatively little force on such bodies, we shall have no difficulty in accounting for the extreme reluctance the College feels in correcting any mistakes which it may have committed.

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## ACUPUNCTURATION.

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Much has lately been said of the efficacy of this remedy in various affections; and well-marked cases in which it has been decidedly beneficial, have been published to the world. In rheumatism, trismus, anasarca, it has been tried, and with success. The facility with which it may be used, leads us to hope that this remedy may meet with a trial from many intelligent practitioners, who may give to the profession a fair and important result of

their observations. Acupuncturation is a remedy of very ancient date. In the philosophical transactions for 1683, is a notice of a book written by Dr. Ryne, in which an account is given of the pathology of gout, and the various means that the Japanese made use of at that time in the treatment of their complaints, among which is Acupuncturation.

It may not be uninteresting to our readers, to give an account of the various affections in which they employed it, a description of the instrument, and the mode of using it.

“The needle is made long, slender, sharp, of gold, or at least silver, with a wreathed handle.

“It is to be conveyed either by the hand or a little mallet into the part gently, a finger's breadth or more, as the case requires, and to be held there the space of thirty breathings, (if the patient can bear it,) otherwise repeated punctures are rather used. The puncture must be when the party is fasting; deeper in a great than less disease; in old than young men; in grown persons, than in those that are lean and slender; in fleshy parts, than in nervous. The needle is chiefly used in diseases of the head and lower belly, and is applied to the head in head aches, lethargies, convulsions, epilepsy, diseases of the eye, &c. The womb itself may be perforated, (*the Japanese affirm*) and the fœtus wounded, when its motions are enormous, and threaten abortion. In these cases the needle must be applied, whence the distemper arises; to the stronger on the back, to the weaker on the abdomen. When the pulse scarce is perceived, the puncture must be

made in the armes, a little besides the veins. The chirurgeons keep by them images, wherein all the places in the body proper for the needle, are designed by marks. The author himself was an eyewitness of the use of this puncture on a souldier, who, being afflicted with violent disorders of stomach, and frequent vomitings at sea, suddenly relieved himself by pricking a thumb's-breadth deep into four different places about the region of his *pilorus*.”

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*A Case of Bronchocele.\** By  
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St. Pancras Infirmary.*—*Read  
Dec. 10, 1822.*

[From the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions.]

I AM induced to offer the following case to the notice of the Medical and Chirurgical Society, in the hope that it may not prove altogether unworthy of their attention, illustrating, as it does, the advantage to be obtained from the use of Iodine, as a remedy in the cure of Bronchocele.

In the summer of the year 1820, being resident during a few weeks in the country, I was consulted by the friends of a young lady, relative to a tumour in her neck, of which the following are the particulars.

Miss —, ætat. 19, tall of stature, with light blue eyes, fair hair, and transparent skin, and inheriting from her father a disposition to scrofula, has had for

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\* An enlargement of the thyroid gland. A tumour on the forepart of the neck. This disease is very common in Derbyshire, and has therefore been designated “Derbyshire neck.”—ED.