

back, and forced him to bend forwards when he was sitting. He had anorexia and dyspepsia, and occasionally was troubled with nausea and vomiting of a mucous matter; the tongue was covered with a thin white coat; the face was of a deep yellow color; the pulse small, contracted, and slow; cough dry and fatiguing; urine scanty and limpid; the legs oedematous; and he had feverish symptoms, with rigors and burning thirst.

Under these circumstances, Dr. Portal diagnosed a vast abscess on the convex surface of the liver, and chiefly of its anterior and inferior edge, which he determined to open. He performed the operation as follows:—The patient being laid in bed, the surgeon introduced a trocar into the most prominent part of the tumor in the right hypochondrium, where the skin appeared to be thinnest, about two fingers' breadth below the ensiform cartilage. On the withdrawal of the trocar, a thick, very fœtid, brownish-colored pus was discharged. Having next introduced a cannulated sound, he incised longitudinally from without inwards the linea alba and the fibres of the rectus abdominis; then introducing the finger, he dilated the opening to about four inches. An enormous quantity of pus was discharged, containing an infinite number of hydatids of different dimensions, and a pseudo-membrane a foot and a half square. A piece of linen, with simple cerate spread on it was introduced into the wound, a pledget of lint and compresses laid on it, and a body bandage placed over all. The patient was then put to bed and laid on his left side. He felt himself first relieved by the operation, but afterwards fainted, soon recovering however. The quantity of pus discharged in the course of twenty minutes is said to have been about forty pounds, and it contained one hundred hydatids.

Four hours after the operation the patient experienced severe pain all over the abdomen, attended with high fever; the pain was relieved by the application of thirty leeches, and three poultices successively over the abdomen. He passed a good night, and the next day a large quantity of pus mixed with bile was discharged. A canula of gum elastic, five inches long, with a calibre of five lines, was fixed in the opening to facilitate the spontaneous evacuation of the pus. The symptoms gradually diminished in intensity, the pus became more laudable and ceased by degrees, and forty-six days after the operation, the wound had completely cicatrised.—*Annali Universali di Medicina*.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO A KNOWLEDGE OF GREEK AND TURKISH REMEDIES.

By X. LANDERER, of Athens.

*Method of Curing Ague among the Mainots.*—The following is a celebrated remedy for ague in Maina:—Equal parts of *nisatisi* (hydrochlorate of ammonia) and pepper are mixed with *betmesi* (wine evaporated to the thickness of syrup, and mixed with ash, so as to form an electuary), of which the patient takes

a tablespoonful some hours before the commencement of the paroxysm. After this dose has been repeated three or four times the fever seldom returns.

*On Arum Dracunculus.*—A plant frequently occurring in the moist districts of Greece is the arum dracunculus, the roots of which are used by the country people against the bite of snakes, and likewise as a remedy for scrofulous tumors. It is frequently met with in the olive plantations in the neighbourhood of Athens; where, at the time of flowering, it diffuses an odor so strong, disgusting, and putrid, that, on approaching, it might be inferred as caused by animal matter in rapid putrefaction. By remaining for a short time in the vicinity of the blooming plant, dizziness, headache, and vomiting, ensue. Many workmen are attacked by these symptoms of poisoning in the gardens of the olive tree, when obliged to expose themselves to the offensive exhalations of this plant. This offensive smell is only evolved from the spadix after the husk of the flower has opened, and continues during the blooming of the plant. At morning and evening it is strongest; for which reason, in this case also, a certain degree of dampness in the atmosphere seems necessary for the evolution of the odor. One evening I gathered about forty of these spadices, an occupation which induced a violent headache and sickness.—*Annals of Chymistry*, No. 8.

#### PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

*War-office, November 22.*

42nd Foot.—William Mure Muir, M.D., to be assistant-surgeon, vice M'Gregor, appointed to the staff.

97th.—Assistant-surgeon James John Majoribanks Wardrop, from the staff, to be assistant-surgeon, vice Leith, deceased.

Hospital Staff.—Assistant-surgeon James M'Gregor, M.D., from the 42nd, to be assistant-surgeon to the forces, vice Sharpley, deceased; Thomas Haliday Young, gent., to be assistant-surgeon to the forces, vice Wardrop.

#### APOTHECARIES' HALL.

*Licentiates admitted Thursday, November 17, 1842.*

Tempest Pollard, Pontefract; A. G. Lamotte, Tiverton; J. Hendrie, Wigton; J. Morgan, Somerset

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*An Apprentice.*—For a student we would recommend Dr. Reid's "Elements of Chemistry;" for one more advanced, Dr. Turner's "Chemistry," by Gregory and Liebig.

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