

"THE STOMACH BRUSH."

A DENTAL journal publishes the following, translated from the German:—In 1713 there was published a pamphlet entitled, *A Complete Account of the most Useful Stomach Brush which is now to be had at the Brushmakers at the Old Court Saddler's Shop in Broad Street in Colln-on-the-Spre*. Many a one may have wished to be able once in a way to have his stomach thoroughly cleaned out, and this speculative brushmaker gave a practicable means to give effect to this wish. In the pamphlet there is a drawing of the stomach brush; it resembles a pipe cleaner, but, of course, is larger. The stalk is made of four wires twisted together, covered with thread, silk, or small ribbons; it is 26 inches long. The brush at the under end is 2 inches long and 1½ broad, and is made of goat's beard hair; but, when one has been accustomed to use it for three or four weeks, a horsehair brush is substituted, this hair being somewhat stronger, and so the effect is better. The application of this most excellent brush is very simple. It is pressed through the throat down into the stomach, which, by drawing up and down of the brush, is cleaned; thereafter cold water or brandy is to be drunk, and the operation is repeated till the cleaning is perfect. The cure is to be repeated every morning.

The author says "at first you will find it rather troublesome to get the brush down, but when you put it in your mouth and on your palate, draw in breath and wind, and press it gently and gradually down, and, without any particular trouble, it will reach the stomach. After eight to fourteen days' practice, it will come as easily to you as eating or drinking."

Of course, the daily application of the stomach brush is the infallible remedy or preventive of all diseases that can be imagined. "Whoever uses this cure requires no other medicine, for it is good against all—cold, hot, and poisonous fevers, it gives a good appetite for eating, it is good against asthma, hemorrhage, headache, chest complaints, coughs, consumptions, apoplexy, toothache, sore eyes, dysentery, quinsy on the tongue, quinsy in the throat, ulcers, abscesses, cardiac; it favours digestion, strengthens the heart, drives away pimples on the skin, is against choking in the stomach, etc., makes too fat and asthmatical and swollen-up people thin, and, on the other hand, makes meagre and thin people fat. This great effect, however, is produced only when the use of the brush is combined with that of an elixir. This is compounded of aloes, saffron, rhubarb, lark-mushroom, wormseed, eugenia, myrrh, theriac. After the stomach washing, 40 to 50 drops of the elixir is to be taken in wine, and this preserves for twenty-four hours against all poison and pestilence."

THE TREATMENT OF OBESITY.

DR. C. F. HUTCHINSON (Monte Carlo) writes: I can fully endorse the remarks made by Mr. Towler-Smith with regard to the treatment of obesity by the hot water and beef-steak treatment, as I have frequently practised it most successfully during the last three years. My attention was drawn to the subject during a holiday visit to New York some three years ago by a friend whom I met, and who had himself undergone the process and received great benefit therefrom. He was so enthusiastic about it that I was induced to call upon the inventor of the process, and judge for myself. I accordingly called upon Dr. Salisbury, of New York, who most graciously received, and every detail described. He, like every other enthusiast, thought he could cure everything by it, and especially phthisis and fibroid tumours of the uterus. Dr. Salisbury showed me, at my request, several of his cases, which no doubt had greatly improved, but whether on account of, or in spite of, the treatment I am not in a position to say. I must admit to possessing far too sceptical a mind to admit the curability of any organic disease by this process; but, for inorganic troubles of a dyspeptic and gouty nature, the diet is of the greatest benefit; for obesity, in the otherwise healthy, it is a certain cure. Butchers' meat in America is of a very inferior quality, being very often stringy and tough; to obviate this drawback Dr. Salisbury has invented a small machine, somewhat of the character of a sausage machine, which separates the pulp of the meat from the fibre. The latter is thrown away, and the pulp formed into small squares, and cooked on a gridiron like the ordinary chop. In England, however, where our average meat is so much finer in quality, I have not found this necessary, but simply use the steak freed as much as possible from fat and fibre.

IS APOMORPHINE A SAFE EMETIC?

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. writes: Some few months back, a woman was brought to me in a maniacal state by a policeman, who told me that, having had a "few words" with her husband, the patient drank off the contents of a bottle of liniment. The bottle, which he brought with him, contained 11 drachms of lin. camph. co., and as it was said to have been more than half full, and was a pint wine bottle, I concluded she had swallowed at least 5 ounces. Failing in my attempts to administer an emetic, and fifteen minutes not having elapsed since the occurrence, I injected subcutaneously one-fifteenth of a grain of apomorphine. In a few minutes the woman became quiet and then rapidly collapsed, and, despite the injection of brandy and ether, the application of hot bottles, etc., died twelve minutes after the injection.

I applied to the coroner for a *post mortem*, which he refused. Having some suspicion as to the apomorphine I had the solution I used analysed, and was informed that in all respects it was good. The patient vomited only 2 ounces of the liniment swallowed, and that while I was giving the injection, and I am compelled to think that the death was due to the apomorphine.

A medical friend told me that, when a student some three years back, he saw apomorphine injected in a case of poisoning without causing vomiting and bringing on collapse, the patient with difficulty being kept breathing until he seemed to sleep naturally, and then sleeping heavily for some hours; in that case there was decomposition of the solution, however.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Memoirs and Memoranda in Anatomy. Vol. I. By J. Cleland, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.; John Y. Mackay, M.D., C.M.; and R. Bruce Young, M.A., M.B. London and Edinburgh: Williams and Norgate.

Guy's Hospital Reports. Edited by N. Davies-Colley and W. Hale White. Vol. XLV, being Vol. XXX of the Third Series. London: J. and A. Churchill.

The St. Moritz Post, Davos and Maloja News. Edited by F. de Beauchamp Strickland. Special Christmas Number, 1888.

Transactions of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain. Volume IX. Congress of Bolton, 1887-8. London: Office of the Sanitary Institute.

Life Register. London: West, Newman, and Co. 1888.

Plumbing. A Textbook to the Practice of the Art or Craft of the Plumber. By William Paton Buchan, R.P. London: Crosby Lockwood and Son. 1889.

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