

# APOMORPHINE AS AN EMETIC.

MR. VERNON JONES, M.B., B.Ch. Dublin (Bedford Square) writes: In view of Dr. Murrell's valuable paper on the therapeutics of apomorphine I should like to state that I have found it unsuitable as an emetic in alcoholic poisoning. In two cases I gave one-tenth of a grain hypodermically, and in both these superseded marked symptoms of collapse, whilst the emetic action was not satisfactory, the vomiting being feeble and incomplete, in fact the stomach was in neither case properly emptied. I believe I am not alone in this experience. So that though apomorphine is undoubtedly the best and speediest emetic in suitable cases it is decidedly contra-indicated in alcoholic poisoning, which is disappointing, for at first sight nothing seems more suitable than a hypodermic emetic when the patient is insensible and cannot be roused to swallow. Of course I am aware that Dr. Murrell was treating of apomorphine simply as an expectorant, otherwise I have no doubt he would have reminded us of the pitfall.

# DRINK AND INSANITY IN NORWAY.

FROM statistics given by the late Dr. Dahl, in his work *Spirituous Liquors as Causes of Disease and Death in Norway*, it appears that the number of cases of insanity attributed to drunkenness has shown a gradual diminution in recent years. Thus, while among the admissions to the Ganstadt Lunatic Asylum at Christiania, between 1856 and 1880, drink was alleged to be the principal, if not the only, factor in 13.7 per cent., the proportion fell to 2.1 per cent. for the period 1886-88. In the other Norwegian asylums the percentage of cases of insanity attributed to alcoholism was 8.1 per cent for 1872-75, and 3.5 for 1886-88. In Denmark, where the consumption of brandy is said to five times as great as in Norway, there is also a decrease, though not nearly to the same extent, the percentage of drunkards among lunatics having been 11.9 for 1872-75, and 10.3 for 1886-88. Not less notable is the diminution of alcohol as a cause of death in Norway. Of 10,000 deaths recorded in 1853-55 alcoholism or delirium tremens was returned as the cause in 33.8 per cent., while in 1881-5 the percentage had fallen to 10.1, and in 1886-88 to 6.9. The statistics of suicide are said to show similar results. English travellers who, following an illustrious example, would rather see men free than sober, have, no doubt, often chafed under the ultra-paternal restrictions on the sale of ardent liquors in Norway, but these figures bear eloquent testimony to the beneficial effect of such legislation on public health.

# A LARGE FEE.

PROFESSOR GRUBE, of Charkow, has received a fee of 5,000 roubles (nearly £800), besides travelling expenses, for an operation which he performed on a rich fishmonger of Astrachan. Dr. Grube was in Astrachan one day and one night.

# A MEDICAL COUNTESS.

THE Countess Wanda von Szcawinska has just taken the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the University of Geneva. The learned lady is said to intend to practise her profession in her native country, Poland.

# THE OLDEST INHABITANT OF ST. PETERSBURG.

A. S. BOLOLIN, a retired tea merchant, who was literally the "oldest inhabitant" of St. Petersburg, recently died at the age of 106. Since 1819 the deceased centenarian had constantly resided in the Russian capital, and he had never had a day's illness. He died of mere old age, in the full possession of all his faculties.

# LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC., received from:

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# BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Manual of Clinical Diagnosis. By Dr. Otto Seifert and Dr. Friedrich Müller. Translated by W. B. Canfield, A.M., M.D. Second English Edition. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1890.  
The Pocket Pharmacopœia. By C. E. Armand Semple, B.A., M.B. Cantab. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox.  
Lectures on Diabetes. By Robert Saundby, M.D. Bristol: John Wright and Co. 1891.  
Surgery. By C. W. Mansell Moullin, M.A., M.D. Oxon. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1891.  
Transactions of the American Orthopædic Association. Vol. III. Philadelphia: Published by the Association. 1890.

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