

lower than 103°4". Swelling of tissues round right orbit commenced on May 11th. The boy was conscious until May 12th, when convulsions commenced. Death occurred on May 15th, eighteen days after the blow was said to have been given. On May 17th I made a *post-mortem* examination in conjunction with Dr. Oldman and Mr. Arthur Maude. The base of the brain, especially the cerebellum, was bathed in pus; both internal auditory meatus were blocked with pus, surrounding the seventh pair of cranial nerves. The brain itself was healthy. There was a cavity in the left mastoid process containing carious bone and pus, which evidently communicated with the base through the auditory canal. The right mastoid process was healthy. The right lateral and cavernous sinuses were filled with blood clot. At the inquest my evidence, of course, was that death might have been due to natural causes, but that a blow however slight might have accelerated death. My evidence was corroborated by Mr. Arthur Maude, who appeared for the school authorities. The schoolmaster was then sworn, and stated that the only occasion on which he had struck the boy was once on the hand with a thin hazel stick about one foot long. Upon this evidence the jury refused to admit further evidence as to a blow having been given, although several witnesses were present for that purpose, and a verdict was returned in accordance with the medical evidence, the master being exonerated from all blame.

PRESCRIBING IN NEWSPAPERS.

It would seem that in all parts of the world there are people who like to find dissertations on medical subjects, and even prescriptions, in the lay press. During the recent epidemic of influenza we have seen something of this in Great Britain, and the last mail brings us an extract from the *Bermuda Royal Gazette* containing a letter on "La Grippe," signed by an M.D., who describes himself as "late Government Medical Officer of Turk's Island." The writer states that negroes are not, as has been supposed by some, exempt from influenza, but that they generally consult "some old woman," who bakes "them before the fire, and gives them 'herb teas' until the attack wears off." The writer, however, ventures to give prescriptions for some more potent remedies: "Hydrarg. chlor. nit., vj grains; sodæ bicarb., xij grains, M. ft. chart. No. ij. Directions: Give one every three hours. If bowels do not move in four hours from time of last dose, give a dose of oil." It is curious that a "late Government Medical Officer" should write prescriptions in the lay press, and curious also that editors should care to insert them, and most curious that patients should care to make use of them. Do they? If so, what was the effect of "hydrarg. chlor. nit., gr. vj"?

TERRIBLE EFFECTS OF READING A MEDICAL JOURNAL.

DR. JOHNSON loved a "good hater" and in the same way it is refreshing to come across a critic who does not "hint a fault or hesitate dislike," but speaks right out, like Brutus. A correspondent of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* after suggesting numerous improvements in that valuable periodical, thus expresses his opinion of the paper on which it is printed: "It should be printed on plain and not on glazed paper, which from its reflection dazzles the eye, irritates the optic nerves, muscles, and lobes, brain and mind, and sympathetically other parts of the system, thus impairing the sight, causing eye-strain with spasm and twitching of muscles, ocular and cerebral hyperemia, dizziness, headache, neuralgia, melancholy, petulance, irascibility, and other disorders of the physical, mental, and moral nature, more or less serious." We shudder to think what damages a sympathetic jury might award to the writer of this "catalogue of curses," if he were to take his grievance into a law court. But surely the victim can improve his mind and temper by reading the cheap reprints of pirated English books issued by enterprising American publishers instead of wasting his eyesight on a medical journal.

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BOOKS, Etc., RECEIVED.

- Die Untersuchung des Auswurfs auf Tuberkelbacillen. Von Dr. Med. Eugen Czaplewski. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1891.
- Die chirurgische Behandlung des Kropfes. Von Dr. Anton Wölfler. III. Theil. Berlin: August Hirschwald. 1891.
- Eine neue Behandlungsmethode der Tuberkulose besonders der chirurgischen Tuberkulosen. Von Professor Dr. Max Schüller. Wiesbaden: J. F. Bergmann. 1891.
- Piesse's Art of Perfumery. Edited by Charles H. Piesse. Fifth edition. London: Piesse and Lubin. 1891.
- The Musings of a Medical. No. 1, price 1s. Edinburgh: James Thin.
- Bibliographie der klinischen Helminthologie. Heft I. Echinococcus cysticus von 1877-1890. Von Dr. J. Ch. Huber. Munich: J. F. Lehmann. 1891.
- Pathologie et Traitement des Maladies de la Peau. Par le Professeur Moriz Kaposi. Traduction par MM. Ernest Besnier et Adrien Doyon. Seconde édition française. Tome premier. Paris: G. Masson. 1891.

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