

TWENTY-SEVEN WEEKLY NUMBERS.—AUGUST, 1848, TO FEB'Y, 1849.

THE

B O S T O N

M E D I C A L A N D S U R G I C A L

J O U R N A L .

EDITED BY J. V. C. SMITH, M.D.

VOLUME XXXIX.

Boston:

DAVID CLAPP, PROPRIETOR AND PUBLISHER.

CORNER OF WASHINGTON AND FRANKLIN STREETS.

1849.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

The Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College will commence on Wednesday, the 14th day of February, 1849.

Theory and Practice of Physic, by WILLIAM SWEETSER, M.D.
Anatomy and Surgery, by EDMUND R. PRASLEE, M.D.
Obstetrics, by AMOS NOURSE, M.D.
Materia Medica, by CHARLES A. LEE, M.D.
Chemistry and Pharmacy, by PARKER CLEVELAND, M.D.
Medical Jurisprudence, by Hon. JOHN S. TENNEY, M.A.

The Library, containing about 3300 volumes, principally modern works, and the Anatomical Cabinet, are annually increasing.

Every person becoming a member of this institution, is required previously to present satisfactory evidence of possessing a good moral character.

The amount of fees for the Lectures is \$50, payable in advance. Graduation fee, including Diploma, \$18. The Lectures continue fourteen weeks.

Degrees are conferred at the close of the Lecture Term in May, and at the following Commencement of the College in September.

Brunswick, Nov., 1848.

NS—eop6t.

DR. LEWIS will attend to Diseases of the Eye, from 9 to 10 o'clock A. M., every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

J. C. NEILSON, M.D.,

SURGEON DENTIST. Office with Dr. J. F. FLAGG, 31 Winter street,

Apr. 12—eplv

TO PHYSICIANS.

THE Subscriber would most respectfully inform the Physicians of Boston that he has removed his store to the CORNER OF TREMONT AND ELLIOT STREETS, where he will be much pleased to see any of the Faculty who will honor his establishment with a visit. With an experience of twelve years in compounding and dispensing medicines, he hopes by constant attention to business to merit a share of patronage, assuring them that their favors shall be prepared with fidelity, of the purest materials, and by himself personally. He will be constantly supplied with all the new preparations as soon as they are out.

J. GEORGE WHITWELL, Apothecary,
Corner Tremont and Elliot Streets, Boston.

Nov. 10.—eplv

DISEASES OF THE EYE AND EAR.

Dr. J. H. DIX will, from this date, relinquish general practice, and attend exclusively to the medical and surgical treatment of Diseases of the Eye and Ear. Tremont st., opposite Tremont House. February 14, 1843.

eptf

TO PHYSICIANS.

THE subscribers are constantly supplied with a selection of pure medicines for prescriptions and the use of families, which they will dispense with accuracy to all who may favor them with their patronage. Just received, a lot of pure Extract Taraxaci, prepared by a new and peculiar process. Also a small lot of Ext. Buchu, and Pareira Brava, and all other articles in common use, fresh from the manufacturer.

A constant supply of Pure Chloroform and Sulphuric Ether, for sale as above.

WHITE & FERGUSON, Successors to CHARLES WHITE,
348 Washington st., cor. Hayward pl. Boston.

Dec. 15—lyr.

GOODWIN'S SURGICAL SPLINTS.

ASSORTED sizes of the Leg, Knee Joint-arm, Elbow, Hand and Forearm, for sale in sets or parts of sets, at manufacturer's prices, by

JOSEPH BURNETT,
No. 33 Tremont Row.

Nov. 1—ly

WILLIAM BROWN,

At his Apothecary store, corner of Washington and Elliot streets, keeps constantly on hand a fresh supply of Medicines, selected expressly for Physicians' and Families' use, including all the English extracts—Conii, Belladonna, Hyoscyami, Taraxaci, &c. Also, all the new Chemical preparations recently introduced. Great care is taken in selecting the choicest of medicines for physicians' prescriptions; not trusting to such articles as rhubarb, ipecac, jalap, aloes, &c., powdered by steam and water power, but having them pulverized fresh from the root, under my own superintendence. The most strict personal attention paid to dispensing physicians' prescriptions. No one permitted to put up prescriptions except those of long experience in the business.

Jan. 5—ly

JOSEPH BURNETT,

APOTHECARY (SUCCESSOR TO T. METCALF), No. 33 TREMONT ROW,

OFFERS to Surgeons and Dentists, the best selected assortment of Instruments to be found in the city, consisting in part of Amputating, Trepanning, Obstetrical, Dissecting, Strabismus, Pocket, Eye, and Cooper's Cases; Scarificators, Catheters, Bougies, Stomach Pumps, Injecting do., Spring and Thumb Lancets, Dissecting and Dressing Scissors, Trocars, Needles, Bistouries; Dressing, Dissecting, Polypus and Throat Forceps, Tonsil Instruments, &c. &c., of American, English and French manufacture.

Extracting Forceps, of Chevalier's manufacture from Dr. Flagg's patterns, in sets of 12, or singly, of superior form and finish; Excavators, Burrs, Pluggers, Drills, Files; Cutting, Splitting and Punching Forceps; Gold and Platina Plate and Wire, common and fine Solder, Spiral Springs, Gold and Tin Foil, MINERAL TEETH, in great variety, (much the largest assortment to be found in New England), Grindstones, and almost every article used in the surgical or mechanical departments of Dentistry.

Instruments sharpened and repaired at short notice.

All orders from the country shall receive careful and prompt attention.

Feb. 10.—tf

THE

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXXIX.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1848.

No. 20.

PASSAGE OF AN IRON ROD THROUGH THE HEAD.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—Having been interested in the reading of the cases of "Injuries of the Head," reported in your Journal by Professor Shipman, of Cortlandville, N. Y., I am induced to offer you the notes of a very severe, singular, and, so far as the result is taken into account, hitherto unparalleled case, of that class of injuries, which has recently fallen under my own care. The accident happened in this town, upon the line of the Rutland and Burlington Rail Road, on the 13th of Sept. last, at 4½ o'clock, P. M. The subject of it is Phineas P. Gage, a foreman, engaged in building the road, 25 years of age, of middle stature, vigorous physical organization, temperate habits, and possessed of considerable energy of character.

It appears from his own account, and that of the by-standers, that he was engaged in charging a hole, preparatory to blasting. He had turned in the powder, and was in the act of tamping it slightly before pouring on the sand. He had struck the powder, and while about to strike it again, turned his head to look after his men (who were working within a few feet of him), when the tamping iron came in contact with the rock, and the powder exploded, driving the iron against the left side of the face, immediately anterior to the angle of the inferior maxillary bone. Taking a direction upward and backward toward the median line, it penetrated the integuments, the masseter and temporal muscles, passed under the zygomatic arch, and (probably) fracturing the temporal portion of the sphenoid bone, and the floor of the orbit of the left eye, entered the cranium, passing through the anterior left lobe of the cerebrum, and made its exit in the median line, at the junction of the coronal and sagittal sutures, lacerating the longitudinal sinus, fracturing the parietal and frontal bones extensively, breaking up considerable portions of brain, and protruding the globe of the left eye from its socket, by nearly one half its diameter. The tamping iron is round, and rendered comparatively smooth by use. It is pointed at the end which entered first, and is three feet, seven inches in length, one and one quarter inch in diameter, and weighs 13½ pounds. I am informed that the patient was thrown upon his back, and gave a few convulsive motions of the extremities, but spoke in a few minutes. His men (with whom

he was a great favorite) took him in their arms and carried him to the road, only a few rods distant, and sat him into an ox cart, in which he rode, sitting erect, full three quarters of a mile, to the hotel of Mr. Joseph Adams, in this village. He got out of the cart himself, and with a little assistance walked up a long flight of stairs, into the hall, where he was dressed.

Being absent, I did not arrive at the scene of the accident until near 6 o'clock, P. M. You will excuse me for remarking here, that the picture presented was, to one unaccustomed to military surgery, truly terrific; but the patient bore his sufferings with the most heroic firmness. He recognized me at once, and said he hoped he was not much hurt. He seemed to be perfectly conscious, but was getting exhausted from the hemorrhage, which was very profuse both externally and internally, the blood finding its way into the stomach, which rejected it as often as every 15 or 20 minutes. Pulse 60, and regular. His person, and the bed on which he was laid, were literally one gore of blood. Assisted by my friend, Dr. Williams, of Proctorsville, who was first called to the patient, we proceeded to dress the wounds. From their appearance, the fragments of bone being uplifted and the brain protruding, it was evident that the fracture was occasioned by some force acting from below upward. The scalp was shaven, the coagula removed, together with three small triangular pieces of the cranium, and in searching to ascertain if there were other foreign bodies there, I passed in the index finger its whole length, without the least resistance, in the direction of the wound in the cheek, which received the other finger in like manner. A portion of the anterior superior angle of each parietal bone, and a semi-circular piece of the frontal bone, were fractured, leaving a circular opening of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. This examination, and the appearance of the iron which was found some rods distant, smeared with brain, together with the testimony of the workmen, and of the patient himself, who was still sufficiently conscious to say that "the iron struck his head and passed through," was considered at the time sufficiently conclusive to show not only the nature of the accident, but the manner in which it occurred.

I have been asked why I did not pass a probe through the entire extent of the wound at the time. I think no surgeon of discretion would have upheld me in the trial of such a foolhardy experiment, in the risk of disturbing lacerated vessels, from which the hemorrhage was near being staunched, and thereby rupturing the attenuated thread, by which the sufferer still held to life. You will excuse me for being thus particular, inasmuch as I am aware that the nature of the injury has been seriously questioned by many medical men for whom I entertain a very high respect.

The spiculæ of bone having been taken away, a portion of the brain, which hung by a pedicle, was removed, the larger pieces of bone replaced, the lacerated scalp was brought together as nearly as possible, and retained by adhesive straps, excepting at the posterior angle, and over this a simple dressing—compress, night-cap and roller. The

wound in the face was left patulous, covered only by a simple dressing. The hands and fore arms were both deeply burned nearly to the elbows, which were dressed, and the patient was left with the head elevated, and the attendants requested to keep him in that position.

10, P. M., same evening.—The dressings are saturated with blood, but the hemorrhage appears to be abating. Has vomited twice only since being dressed. Sensorial powers remain as yet unimpaired. Says he does not wish to see his friends, as he shall be at work in a day or two. Tells where they live, their names, &c. Pulse 65; constant agitation of the lower extremities.

14th, 7, A. M.—Has slept some; appears to be in pain; speaks with difficulty; tumefaction of face considerable, and increasing; pulse 70; knows his friends, and is rational. Asks who is foreman in his pit. Hemorrhage internally continues slightly. Has not vomited since 12, M.

15th, 9, A. M.—Has slept well half the night. Sees objects indistinctly with the left eye, when the lids are separated. Hemorrhage has ceased. Pulse 75.

8, P. M., same day.—Restless and delirious; talks much, but disconnected and incoherent. Pulse 84, and full. Prescribed vin. colchicum, f 3 ss. every six hours, until it purges him. Removed the night-cap.

16th, 8, A. M.—Patient appears more quiet. Pulse 70. Dressed the wounds, which in the head have a foetid sero-purulent discharge, with particles of brain intermingled. No discharge from bowels. Ordered sulph. magnesia, $\frac{3}{4}$ j., repeated every four hours until it operates. Iced water to the head and eye. A fungus appears at the external canthus of the left eye. Says "the left side of his head is banked up."

17th, 8, A. M.—Pulse 84. Purged freely. Rational, and knows his friends. Discharge from the brain profuse, very foetid and sanious. Wound in face healing.

18th, 9, A. M.—Slept well all night, and lies upon his right side. Pulse 72; tongue red and dry; breath foetid. Removed the dressings, and passed a probe to the base of the cranium, without giving pain. Ordered a cathartic, which operated freely. Cold to the head. Patient says he shall recover. He is delirious, with lucid intervals.

19th, 8, P. M.—Has been very restless during the day; skin hot and dry; tongue red; excessive thirst; delirious, talking incoherently with himself, and directing his men.

20th and 21st.—Has remained much the same.

22d, 8, A. M.—Patient has had a very restless night. Throws his hands and feet about, and tries to get out of bed. Head hot. Says "he shall not live long so." Ordered a cathartic of calomel and rhubarb, to be followed by castor oil, if it does not operate in six hours.

4, P. M., same day.—Purged freely twice, and inclines to sleep.

23d.—Rested well most of the night, and appears stronger and more rational. Pulse 80. Shaved the scalp a second time, and brought the edges of the wound in position, the previous edges having sloughed away. Discharge less in quantity and less foetid. Loss of vision of left eye.

From this time until the 3d of October, he lay in a semi-comatose state, seldom speaking unless spoken to, and then answering only in monosyllables. During this period, fungi started from the brain, and increased rapidly from the orbit. To these was applied nitrate of silver cryst., and cold to the head generally. The dressings were renewed three times in every twenty-four hours; and in addition to this, laxatives, combined with an occasional dose of calomel, constituted the treatment. The pulse varied from 70 to 96—generally very soft. During this time an abscess formed under the frontalis muscle, which was opened on the 27th, and has been very difficult to heal. Discharged nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ viij. at the time it was punctured.

Oct. 5th and 6th.—Patient improving. Discharge from the wound and sinus, laudable pus. Calls for his pants and wishes to get out of bed, though he is unable to raise his head from the pillow.

7th.—Has succeeded in raising himself up, and took one step to his chair, and sat about five minutes.

11th.—Pulse 72. Intellectual faculties brightening. When I asked him how long since he was injured, he replied, "four weeks this afternoon, at 4½ o'clock." Relates the manner in which it occurred, and how he came to the house. He keeps the day of the week and time of day, in his mind. Says he knows more than half of those who inquire after him. Does not estimate size or money accurately, though he has memory as perfect as ever. He would not take \$1000 for a few pebbles which he took from an ancient river bed where he was at work. The fungus is giving way under the use of the crys. nitrate of silver. During all of this time there has been a discharge of pus into the fauces, a part of which passed into the stomach, the remainder being ejected from the mouth.

20th.—Improving. Gets out and into bed with but little assistance. Sits up thirty minutes twice in twenty-four hours. Is very childish; wishes to go home to Lebanon, N. H. The wound in the scalp is healing rapidly.

Nov. 8th.—Improving in every particular, and sits up most of the time during the day. Appetite good, though he is still kept upon a low diet. Pulse 65. Sleeps well, and says he has no pain in the head. Food digests easily, bowels regular, and nutrition is going on well. The sinus under the frontalis muscle has nearly healed. He walks up and down stairs, and about the house, into the piazza, and I am informed this evening that he has been in the street to-day.—I leave him for a week, with strict injunctions to avoid excitement and exposure.

15th.—I learn, on inquiry, that Gage has been in the street every day except Sunday, during my absence. His desire to be out and to go home to Lebanon has been uncontrollable by his friends, and he has been making arrangements to that effect. Yesterday he walked half a mile, and purchased some small articles at the store. The atmosphere was cold and damp, the ground wet, and he went without an overcoat, and with thin boots. He got wet feet and a chill. I find him in bed, depressed and very irritable. Hot and dry skin; thirst; tongue coated; pulse

110; lancinating pain in left side of head and face; rigors, and bowels constipated. Ordered cold to the head and face, and a black dose to be repeated in six hours, if it does not operate. He has had spiculæ of bone pass into the fauces, which he expelled from the mouth within a few days.

16th, A. M.—No better. Cathartic has operated freely. Pulse 120; skin hot and dry; thirst and pain remain the same. Has been very restless during the night. Venesection $f \frac{3}{4}$ xvj. Ordered calomel, grs. x., and ipecac. grs. ij., followed in four hours by castor oil.

8, P. M., same day.—Purged freely; pulse less frequent; pain in head moderated; skin moist. R. Antim. et potassa tart., grs. iij.; syr. simplex, $f \frac{3}{4}$ vj. Dose a dessert spoonful every four hours.

17th.—Improving. Expresses himself as "feeling better in every respect;" has no pain in the head.

18th.—Is walking about house again; says he feels no pain in the head, and appears to be in a way of recovering if he can be controlled.

At this date I shall leave the case at present. The result, and a few remarks of a practical nature, together with the mental manifestations of the patient, I reserve for a future communication. I think the case presents one fact of great interest to the practical surgeon, and, taken as a whole, is exceedingly interesting to the enlightened physiologist and intellectual philosopher. In my effort to be brief, which I fear you will think an utter failure, I have omitted much in my notes that might interest some readers. Allow me to say here, that I have seen a communication in "The Reflector and Watchman," stating that "there is a piece of bone loose in the top of his head, as large as a dollar, which will have to be removed, should he live." The fractured portions of bone, excepting those which were removed at the first dressing, have united firmly, and the above remark was made unadvisedly. Should you think these notes of sufficient importance to deserve a place in your Journal, they are at your service.

Yours, very respectfully,
Cavendish, Vt., Nov. 27, 1848.

J. M. HARLOW.

FITCH'S BOOK ON CONSUMPTION.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.—Concluded from p. 323.]

In the introductory article in his book, the author arrogates to himself the discovery of the "grand uses of the lungs," as before alluded to. He there also asserts that, by this discovery, he was able to lay the foundation of a "certain method of elucidating and treating their diseases." I propose now to inquire into this discovery, in order that we may fully understand what it is, that due appreciation in return may be rendered. At page 28, we have the following account of what led to the discovery—as well as the discovery itself. He there states, that while pursuing some investigations upon "Nervous Influence," he made the discovery of the "grand uses of the lungs;" to use his own words,

present in the collapse stage of cholera, which seems to have hitherto escaped the observation of medical men—viz., animal electricity, or phosphorescence of the human body. My attention was first attracted to the subject during the former visitation of that fearful disease in the metropolis. It was indeed singular to notice the quantity of electric fluid which continually discharged itself on the approach of any conducting body to the surface of the skin of a patient laboring under the collapse stage, more particularly if the patient had been previously enveloped in blankets; *streams of electricity*, many averaging *one inch and a half* in length, could be readily educted by the knuckle of the hand when directed to any part of the body, and these appeared, in color, effect, crackling noise, and luminous character, similar to that which we are all accustomed to observe when touching a charged Leyden jar. I may remark the coincidence, that simultaneously with the heat of the body passing off, the electricity was evolved; and I am therefore led to ask the question—Are not heat, electric and galvanic fluids, *one* and the same thing? Does not the fact of the passing off of both imponderable substances at one and the same time strengthen this conclusion?

Again: are not the whole of what we call *vital* phenomena produced by certain modifications of the electric-galvanic-magnetic matter and motions? And do we not find that these *vital* phenomena are continuously affected by the relative state of the surrounding electric medium? To what can we attribute the present fluctuating condition of the barometer, if not to it?

We *know* what wonderful *decomposing* action galvanism had on alkalies, under the hands of the illustrious Humphrey Davy; but we do *not know*, nor have we any conception in the present state of knowledge, of the *decomposing* action of electric matter of the atmospheric air, in various conditions, on the fluids generally of the animal body. Chemistry has failed in pointing out any ponderable material as the exciting cause of epidemic diseases.

In the treatment of Cholera, all are agreed that *non-conducting* substances on the surface of the skin aid essentially the cure; and during the disturbed state of the atmosphere, for the purpose of retaining the electricity continually eliminating in the system, we are told to wear woollen bandages, flannel, and gutta percha soles, so as to insulate as much as possible the body, to prevent the heat—the electric fluid—from passing off.—*London Lancet*.

ON QUINOIDINE.

BY F. RÖDER.

THE author has, in consequence of the results published by Liebig on the constitution of quinoidine, made some experiments to obtain from quinoidine or amorphous quinine the latter in a crystalline state. One part of commercial quinoidine is dissolved in four parts of alcohol of 0.865, and a solution of $\frac{1}{2}$ a part protochloride of tin in two parts of

water added to it. This precipitates a dark resinous mass, while the supernatant liquid is but faintly colored; it is separated from the precipitate, and quickly precipitated with ammonia. The precipitate is then well washed and dried, and exhausted with alcohol as long as this removes any thing; the united extracts are again mixed with half the former amount of protochloride of tin, again quickly precipitated with ammonia, and the well-washed and dried precipitate exhausted with alcohol, when an almost colorless solution of pure quinine is obtained, which, carefully saturated with dilute sulphuric acid, affords on evaporation crystals of sulphate of quinine.

In the liquid filtered from the precipitate of protoxide of tin and quinine, as well as in the wash-water, cinchonine is contained, if ordinary quinoidine has been employed which has not been previously purified by precipitation with an alkali. These liquids, containing cinchonine, are precipitated with tincture of galls to obtain the cinchonine in the usual manner.

The precipitated resinous substance still retains some quinine, to obtain which it is dissolved in alcohol, again mixed with a strong solution of protochloride of tin, and then further treated in the above-mentioned manner. The resinous substance so obtained is of an alkaline nature, of a bitter taste, and possesses the peculiar odor of quinoidine; it would probably yield more quinine on further treatment.

The author obtained by this process from two different samples of quinoidine, in one case 43 per cent. quinine, 9 per cent. cinchonine, and 28 per cent. resin; and in the second 40 per cent. quinine, 10 per cent. cinchonine, and 30 per cent. resin; the water amounted to 20 per cent. On precipitating 100 parts of commercial quinoidine in solution with an alkali, the precipitate obtained weighed 69 grs.—*Chem. Gaz. from Mittheilungen des Schweizer*.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON. JANUARY 17, 1849.

Asiatic Cholera in New York.—It is wholly unnecessary for us to detail the particulars of the introduction or progress of cholera in New York, because every fact connected with it has been chronicled by all the newspapers in the Union. By a resolution of the Board of Health of that city, the physician of the quarantine was called up to report a detailed statement of the "origin, progress and character of the cholera, as the same now exists at the Marine Hospital," which has been executed by Dr. Whiting in a very concise and appropriate manner. The document appears in the form of a pamphlet, and will doubtless be extensively circulated.

People may argue the non-contagiousness of cholera, and so may medical gentlemen—and, indeed, very generally they do; and yet it is morally impossible to deny that the disease was transmitted from one person to another at Staten Island, after the arrival of the ship New York at the

who consider education of the first importance in a medical practitioner. At Cleveland there was a regularly chartered school, well organized, which was transferred to Columbus—but whether any fragment of it remains in Cleveland, cannot be ascertained at the moment of writing. Not far from Cleveland there is still another; and lastly, at the seat of government, the Starling College has been so richly endowed by the man whose name it bears, that should it fail to meet the expectations of the community, the fault must be charged in after years to the course of instruction. In this school, the youngest in the series, Frederick Merrick, M.D., is the professor of Botany and Chemistry. On him it devolved to open the present session, in behalf of the faculty. That he accomplished the undertaking satisfactorily, is abundantly evident by the complimentary attention of the class in requesting the manuscript for publication. A prominent item of instruction in this off-hand, pleasant lecture, is this: Be careful in medicine to discriminate between what is true and what is false. Aye, there's the rub. When Dr. Merrick can clearly demonstrate an unerring method of ascertaining a point so desirable, he will have discovered the philosopher's stone. To the end of time, the schools will disagree in doctrine, and theorists, like locusts, will forever abound, to the disturbance of students, and to the injury of inductive medicine. Dr. Merrick has a disciplined mind, large benevolence, an ardent love for truth, which he would have always take the homely name of facts, and by their indications he would be influenced.

The Scalpel.—A new Journal of health, designed, according to the title, for popular as well as professional reading, edited by Edward H. Dixon, M.D., of New York, has been commenced, and without having specific days of publication, is to be issued at such times as may appear expedient. No annual subscribers are solicited, as the editor expresses his intention of discontinuing the Scalpel whenever he may judge proper. It is beautifully printed, and certainly has a large amount of purely original matter. Dr. Dixon has been a frequent contributor to our Journal in years past, and few have exhibited more ingenuity, as many of our readers are aware, in the practice of surgery. A variety of apparatus for relieving the sufferings of surgical patients, have been devised by Dr. Dixon, and are favorably known to the profession; and he has been equally happy in operations, and in the practice of a branch for which he evidently has a decided predilection. He is a vigorous, fearless, independent writer, capable of expressing himself clearly on all subjects, and we wish him good success in his new enterprise.

Washington Co. (N. Y.) Medical Society.—The anniversary meeting of the Washington County Medical Society was held on the last Tuesday of June, 1848. The following are its officers. Dr. Henry C. Gray, *President*; Dr. Simeon F. Crandall, *Vice President*; Dr. Wm. A. Collins, *Recording Secretary*; Dr. P. V. S. Morris, *Corresponding Secretary*; Dr. James Savage, *Treasurer*; Drs. S. F. Crandall, Cornelius Holmes, Hiram Corliss, *Censors*. Dr. H. C. Gray, *Delegate to the American Medical Association*. Dr. Hiram Corliss, *Delegate to the State Med. Society*.

Medical Miscellany.—Twenty cases of scarlet fever existed among the children of the Female Orphan Asylum, in this city, on Sunday last.—

Drs. Hitchcock & French, of Ashby, Mass., have recently removed a fibrous tumor of the uterus in a patient 38 years of age. The operation was performed by ligature through means of Gooch's canula. From extreme anemia and emaciation, caused by years of hemorrhage and pain, she has rapidly regained flesh, strength and life.—At the last meeting of the Paris Institute, M. Bernard and M. Bareswell presented a sample of alcohol which they had obtained from the fermentation of sugar extracted from the human liver.—In Montreal, on the 28th of December, an inquest was held on the body of Sarah Griffith, 18 years old, who died suddenly. A *post-mortem* examination of the body was had, from which it appeared that she died thus suddenly in consequence of tight lacing, which affected the heart and other internal organs.—A Singapore paper relates a marvellous tale, to the effect that, after a violent earthquake at Chantibun, the roads, the fields, and the markets, were strewn with hairs, which exactly resembled human hair, and which, when burned, emitted the usual smell of burning hair.—A dentist of Durham has lately used gutta percha for the manufacture of sets of gums for artificial teeth.—Mr. J. Murray, the eminent chemist, in a letter, recommends the introduction of electricity into hospitals and infirmaries as a therapeutic agent.—Mr. Webb, of Balsam, Eng., has operated successfully on several animals affected with lockjaw.—A cholera quarantine is in force at Kingston, Jamaica.—In Northampton, Mass., there were 80 deaths in 1848, of which 9 were between 80 and 90. The marriages were only 30.—In the Canadian Insane Asylum, two lunatics were put in the same apartment, and the result was, one of them was horribly mutilated.—In Boston, \$12,599 35, was paid for hospital money during 1848. It came out of sailors, who pay 20 cents each, a month, for the support of marine hospitals.—A note, dated Jan. 3d, from Dr. Harlow, of Cavendish, Vt., the medical attendant of Mr. Gage, who had an iron rod shot through his head, as lately reported in the Journal, says the patient is now at Lebanon, N. H., "walking about the house, and riding out, improving both mentally and physically."—A woman in Illinois has had 18 children in 10 years.—A bill for the establishment of an asylum for the insane is before the Legislature of North Carolina.—The latest accounts from New Orleans show that the cholera has much abated in that city. Cases have occurred at numerous places up the Mississippi river, at Cincinnati, and at Mobile. At New York it has ceased to exist. In London, the fatal cases for the week ending Dec. 20th, were 31, against 29 for the previous week. The total number of cases in England from the first appearance of the malady was, to Dec. 20th, 3737, whereof 1772 had proved fatal, 505 had recovered, and 1400 were under treatment, or the result not recorded. The cases in Scotland have been no fewer than 2922, whereof 1356 have perished.

MARRIED,—In Providence, R. I., Dr. W. H. Smith to Miss R. M. Stillman.

DIED,—In England, Dr. Samuel Cooper, the celebrated surgeon.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Jan. 13th, 62.—Males, 28—females, 34.—Of consumption, 18—scarlet fever, 9—lung fever, 3—dropsy, 1—dropsy on the brain, 3—disease of the heart, 5—disease of the hip, 1—pleurisy, 1—diabetes, 1—infantile, 4—inflammation of the lungs, 2—canker, 1—accidental, 2—scrofula, 1—rheumatism, 1—croup, 2—measles, 1—child-bed, 2—apoplexy, 1—old age, 1—smallpox, 1—paralysis, 1.

Under 5 years, 22—between 5 and 20 years 6—between 20 and 40 years, 20—between 40 and 50 years, 3—over 60 years, 6.