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MEDICAL.

From the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Prevention of Phthisis.

We notice in a late number of the London Medical and Surgical Journal, a very able and interesting lecture by Professor Graves, of Dublin, on the causes, nature and treatment of phthisis pulmonalis [consumption]. Dr. G. strongly reprobates the practice of treating subjects, predisposed to this disease, by confinement, seclusion from the air, spare diet, and inactivity. His mode of prevention is that of fortifying the system by free exposure to atmospheric vicissitude, by active muscular exercise, and by the freest diet which the digestive powers are able to sustain; * at the same time duly regulating the action of the bowels, but with as little aid as possible from strictly medical treatment. This view of the subject is not indeed new; but it is urged by Dr. G. in the passage to which we refer with such eloquence and earnestness, that we have thought it best to quote his own words, in order to impress on the minds of our readers, with the same force with which they have been brought home to our own views which we consider so just and philosophical on this important subject. How deeply interesting is every suggestion on the means of preventing phthisis. Who is there of the profession among us that does not realize this, when we see, day after day, swallowed up in this yawning gulph, the fairest and most promising in youth, the most cherished and useful members of the social circle in mature life; their fate only the more bitter for having been long anticipated, and from the mortifying consciousness that we can do little to arrest the progress of the destroyer when he has once secured a hold of his victim. In acute diseases, the very rapidity of their course, which scarce leaves time for the action of remedies, furnishes constantly to the practitioner the excitement of hope, and the delightful, even if delusive, feeling that he is controlling in some degree the progress of the symptoms. But in this, how often will it happen that the resources of skill and science seem utterly exhausted, ere half the work of disease is completed, so that the practitioner has the sad alternative of quelling the apprehensions of the patient by remedies in which he scarce feels himself the slightest confidence, or sitting down together with him in hopeless despondence. If there is any means of preventing the development of this dreadful malady in those who from hereditary predisposition may be considered its proper subjects, we would devoutly pray that it might be impressed not only on our pages and those of every medical journal, but on the columns of every paper which circulates through the country, that it might meet the eye and be engraven on the memory of every citizen. We make no apology, then, for introducing this quotation on a hackneyed topic. To those who know the good sense which pervades Dr. Graves's writings, it will be doubly welcome as coming from him; and to those who love truth, if it borrows her language it will need no other or stronger recommendation.

* You will ask me what is to be done, in order to avert this phthisical tendency? It was formerly thought, that consumption arose from inflammation of the lung, and, on this erroneous reasoning, was founded its preventive treatment; the patient was confined to his room, and kept in an equable temperature, wrapped up in flannel. I well remember this mode. If a family lost one of its members by consumption, these were the means employed to avert its occurrence in those who remained. This absurd mode was followed with rigorous exactness, and the constitutions of the survivors were so debilitated thereby, that they became similarly affected, and in time the whole were swept away. All these pre-

cautionary measures generally tend to the same purpose, to make the constitution delicate, and consequently more open to the attacks of phthisis. A rational physician will endeavor to prevent its occurrence, not by confining his patient and wrapping him in flannel, but by hardening him against cold. Any one who wraps himself up and confines himself within doors, takes cold in ten-fold proportion to the person who dispenses with superfluous covering, washes his chest with cold water, and rises early in the morning. Habits such as these, with a good, nutritious, but not stimulating diet, and exercise, are the best preventives of phthisis. Make your patient lay aside slops and tea; let him take wholesome fresh meat, bread, and good beer; let him rise early and breakfast early, and dine also early; when the weather permits, make him be in the open air for four or five hours, taking exercise on a jaunting car, or on the top of a coach. The good diet will invigorate the system, and so far from producing inflammation, will do exactly the contrary. No superfluous muffling should be used, nor would I recommend the young gentlemen, who wish to avoid cold, to come to hospital in the morning with a bear round their necks. Exercise should also be taken on an open vehicle, close carriages avoided, and the patient should commence cautiously the plan recommended by Dr. Stewart of Glasgow, of washing the chest with vinegar and water, beginning with it warm, and reducing the temperature gradually until it can be used completely cold. You will have great success in preventing phthisis by following this plan. In all cases, also, where phthisis is hereditary, I would strongly recommend the insertion of issues or setons in the chest, before or after puberty, and I am of opinion that if you happen to have an application made to you for advice, before the disease commences, you will certainly avert its occurrence by this practice. You should, however, employ this mode of treatment with due consideration; issues and setons are very unpleasant things, and you should not make your mode of prevention more powerful than necessary. The only cases in which you are authorized to have recourse to them, as preventives, are those in which there is a family predisposition to phthisis. I look on issues and setons as one of the most important means in the prevention, if not in the treatment of phthisis. Their utility in diseases of the hip-joint and spine has been long acknowledged. It is the knowledge of this fact which induces me to recommend them in phthisical cases. I consider their value very great; and when I employ them, I generally recommend a nutritive diet, which is of advantage where there is an outlet for matter from the system. I never treat a case of decidedly incipient phthisis without inserting, at least, two setons under the collar-bones. The following observation, made by an intelligent medical friend, is deserving of attention. "I had inserted a seton ever the left mamma, where bronchial rales, diminished respiration, and commencing crepitations, indicated advancing tubercular inflammation. These stethoscopic phenomena were much increased every time he caught cold in his chest, and he felt sensibly, by the wheezing and uneasiness in that part of his chest, that whenever he caught cold, the lung there was most engaged. The effects of the setons were such, that in the course of three months, having contracted a severe cold, that part of the lung was comparatively free from the bronchitis." [inflammation] For the accuracy of this fact I can vouch.

* This was a case calling for the insertion of a seton, or any other external irritation, as the author seems to recommend just above, in cases where there is no symptom whatever of disease, and only an apprehension of it from mere family predisposition. In a case where the lung is sound but weak and predisposed to disease, the seton could not change the natural constitution of the organ, nor of course remove the debility and predisposition to disease. We should, on the contrary, fear that upon its removal after long continuance, the irritation might be translated to the weak lung, and thus the means used with a view to prevent disease prove the occasion of exciting it. The rule which we would lay down then is this—that setons and other external irritants should be used when symptoms of disease actually occur, and not before.

In this connection we would protest against the reprehensible and murderous fashion of lacing—we do not say tight lacing, but lacing at all. The lungs ought at all times to be allowed perfectly free and unrestrained action. This is particularly important at the age when the constitution is just forming; and most especially so in cases where there is a hereditary predisposition to pulmonary disease. Many a mother has been the unwitting cause of a daughter's death, by encouraging or permitting her to conform to a practice which should never be resorted to except with a horse in training for the race course, and then only for a very few weeks.—Ed. CHER. GAZ.

the social condition of the last named country, tend to render it a desirable place of residence; and if the present enlightened Pa. continue to promote the advantages which it has gained within the last few years, it will become as agreeable a place of residence as any person can desire. Moreover, Clot Bey has confirmed the statement of Savary, that in Egypt pulmonary diseases are almost entirely unknown.

RURAL ECONOMY.

From the Southern Agriculturist.

Culture of Indian Corn.

Athens, Georgia, Sept. 21, 1835.

Sir,—By experiment, I have arrived at some conclusions in reference to the culture of Indian corn, which I think are of importance to the planters in the southern states. I communicate them for the use of the public with great hesitation, because they are directly at variance with the received opinions on the subject.

The early part of my life was spent in agricultural pursuits, and hence, if there was no other reason, I feel a deep interest in every thing relating to agriculture. I noticed very early the great difficulty in transplanting successfully the young corn plant. Whence came this, but from breaking the roots in taking the plant up? How is it then, that intelligent planters affirm the doctrine, that one chief object of ploughing corn is to cut its roots. If breaking the roots of young corn in transplanting it, is nearly fatal to its future growth, must not breaking its roots with the plough when it is older, and the season hotter, be a serious injury to it? Any other conclusion seems to me to be at variance with the general economy of nature. It seems to me that there can be, in truth, but two reasons for ploughing or hoeing corn—1st, to destroy grass and weeds; and 2d, to keep the soil loose so that the roots may easily penetrate it, in search of their proper food. But in accomplishing these two purposes, a great injury must be done to the corn by breaking its roots. Can we not accomplish both these ends, and, at the same time keep clear of the attendant mischief? I think we can.

Last spring I planted a small piece of poor land, first breaking it up well. The rows were about three feet apart, and the stalks left from 12 to 18 inches in the drill. The ground had been very foul the last year with crab grass, the seed of which matured. The corn was not well up this spring before the grass began to appear. When the corn had about four or five blades, the young grass completely covered the ground, and the corn was turning yellow. I spread a small quantity of stable manure round the corn, and covered the whole ground three or four inches deep with decaying leaves from the forest, taking care to do this when the ground was wet, and the leaves also, that they might not be blown away; and to leave the tops of the corn uncovered. In ten days there was not a particle of living grass to be found; and the corn had put on that deep bluish green which always betokens a healthful condition of the plant.

From the day the corn was planted until it was ripe, there was nothing more done to it; and the result is a product at the rate of forty-two bushels to the acre: about one third of the stalks having two ears on each of them.

I noted, in the course of the summer, the following facts:

1st. The corn treated thus was always ahead of that planted alongside of it, and treated in the usual way.

2d. It ripened at least ten days sooner than other corn planted at the same time.

3d. During the hottest days in summer, the blades did not shrivel, as did other corn.

4th. In the driest weather, on removing the leaves, the ground was found to be moist to the surface, and loose as deep as it had been at first broken up.

5th. The hardest rains had scarcely any effect in washing away the soil, or making it hard.

It will, I think, require less labor to produce corn in this way, than in the usual mode. And even, if it required more, we have the consolation that while, by the old mode, every hour's work is an injury to the land, by this mode, every hour's work is making the land better; for few things can be better manure than the coating of leaves put on in summer, ploughed in during the winter following.

I used leaves raked up in the forest, because of these there is an ample supply within the reach of almost every one, and because there seems to be, from my observation, a strong antipathy between dead and decaying leaves, and crab grass, that most harassing foe of planters.

I make this communication, as I have already said, with great hesitation, because the idea of raising corn without work, that is, without ploughing and hoeing it—and, at the same time improving the land, by protecting it against the scorching influence of the sun, and washing rains, and manuring it, is so directly in opposition to the universal practice and belief for ages. The thing is at least worthy of further trial. It may lead to most important results. Those who think the idea is worth any attention, may easily make an experiment on an acre or two, and note carefully its progress through the summer. If they are satisfied, after the trial, that there is any thing in it, to extend the operation will be an easy matter. If, on experiment, it should be found advisable to do so, the proper way would be, to collect the leaves in winter, and deposit them in heaps on the ground on which they are to be used, and the next spring, during a wet season, after the corn is up, spread them, taking care to leave the tops of the young corn uncovered.

Very respectfully,
JAMES CAMAK.

Will not some of our subscribers favor us so far as to repeat the above experiment, and communicate to us the result for publication in the Gazette. The leaves might be gathered during the winter, and carried to the ground when time could be easily spared for it. We would recommend that an acre should be divided into four parts; then let two parts be covered with leaves, the one two inches deep, and the other three or four. Let the other two parts be covered with pine straw, one two inches deep and the other three or four. The straw is not we believe so rich manure for land; but it is in many places much more abundant, and it requires less labor to gather and spread it out. It should be remembered that the land ought to be well ploughed, and that not too long before the time of planting.

But in order to test the value of this mode of raising corn, an acre, or some measured quantity of land of the same quality immediately adjoining, ought to be planted at the same time and cultivated in the usual way,—and the products compared.

Ed. Cher. Gaz.

Drying Bacon.

There are two objects to be attained in smoking meat; one is to dry the meat, the other impregnating it with the acid disengaged from wood during combustion (the pyroigneous acid) which rises in the smoke and is imbibed by the meat—it is this acid that gives to Bacon its peculiar flavor, and property of resisting putrefaction. The fire therefore should be made of such materials as contain it in the greatest quantity. Such as green beech, hickory, ash, maple, or oak; cobs, not yielding the acid, only serve to color the meat, and are of no use.

To make good bacon, the meat must be gradually and thoroughly dried; any considerable degree of heat will injure its texture. Care should therefore be taken that it be not heated more than is necessary to produce the drying.—Western Farmer.

From the Southern Planter.

Boiling Food for Cattle.

Having for some years turned my attention to the most economical and profitable mode of fattening cattle, and especially hogs I have found that preparing their food by the process of boiling is unquestionably the greatest improvement that has yet been discovered—a slight fermentation following previously to feeding it away, as certainly adds to the capacity of food for affording nutrition. And I have also further fully ascertained, that the nutritive qualities of many species of food can only be obtained by boiling, and in many others is only fully developed, or prepared for the action of the stomach by that process.

The Irish potato furnishes a case in point of the first kind, and the apples of the last. It is extremely rare that you will find a hog that will eat a raw Irish potato, but put it through a culinary process and it is rare to find one that will refuse them.

Boil the apples, let them get cold, and feed them to hogs, and you will double their capacity for producing flesh.

But, sir the result of fairly conducted experiment has equally convinced me that the mixing of different kinds of food, adds prodigiously to the capacity of the different materials for affording nutrition, from the effect of combination. The increase of the quantity of food, as well as the addition to its nutritive quality, by the simple absorption of water in the act of boiling, is familiar to all well informed persons. But I am assured that the combination of different materials, produces a greater mass of nutritive matter, than the whole could separately yield; and that to find out the art of mixing food, along with the best mode of preparing it for the action of the stomach, is the great art of feeding economically, and I believe to secure animal flesh, health, and vigor.

The late improved mode of keeping up flesh in working horses in England, by the admixture of food, may be cited as a corroborating proof in point. It is now, I think, rendered certain that the combination of two articles of food, produces a new nutritive matter, more effectual than either could separately, or than could be produced from the nutritive matter contained in each, fed separately. Boil Irish potatoes, pumpkins, and apples; combine them by mashing together, and add a little salt, and it will be found most nutritive for hogs, producing flesh rapidly. Now a hog on Irish potatoes raw, would starve to death, and do little better confined to pumpkin; on raw apples he would live tolerably, and on the boiled and combined he fattens kindly and rapidly.

The result with me has become an anxious desire to ascertain the simplest and most economical mode of steam boiling food on a large scale, say pumpkins, potatoes, etc. Some of your readers may have seen, or be in possession of a plan not generally known, and valuable.

I have no hesitation in saying that the individual whose talents would devise some plan which would come within the reach of every description of planters, uniting economy in the expenditure of capital, with despatch, would confer a solid benefit on our country.

[We remember to have seen published a few years since, an account of some such experiment as the following. Two pigs of the same size and weight, old enough to be weaned, were chosen from the same litter. One was fed upon the boiled meal and the other upon raw corn. At the quantity of each determined by weight. At the end of some weeks, the one fed upon meal had eaten much less food and yet had grown much faster, and was found to weigh much more than the other. Will not some of our subscribers repeat the experiment this winter, and let us know the result.—Ed. Gaz.]

Properties of Hales.

How to Choose, etc.—The following extracts from a letter from a distinguished gentleman of Kentucky, who is extensively engaged in the breeding of mules, contains many valuable hints in respect to the selec-

tion of this valuable animal, for particular services. The experience of a practical farmer of superior intelligence, in matters of this kind, is of the very first importance, and hence we feel assured our readers will thank us for transferring the following to our columns:

"If you think of purchasing them for your own use, first determine whether you want them for the plough, wagon, or harness. If for tilling the earth, look at the quality of your soil. If for light, sandy soil, the rapid motion of a carriage, or light vehicle of any kind, select them tall with round but slender bodies, with flat, bony, sinewy legs, with rather short, thin ears, a clean head, and as fiery an eye as possible: in fine, those which most resemble the horse when brought on the turf.

If for tough clay land, or the heavy slow draught of a wagon, select those with the largest heads, the longest flapping ears, coarsest limbs, the heaviest bodies, those which most resemble the jack in every particular, except size. The latter are best adapted to plantations intrusted to overseers and negroes, as they will endure, without any apparent injury, to be beaten and bruised in such a manner as would render one of the former unfit for service for days.

Colts to make first rate mules should never be under 3 feet 3 inches when foaled—if extra, they should be from 3 feet 5 inches to 3 feet 8 inches.

As an invariable rule, let them have length of leg, an apparent excess in that portion between the knee and pastern joints.

Western Farmer.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the North Carolina Legislature—Continued.

SENATE.

Saturday, Dec. 5.—Mr. Williams of Beaufort, presented the memorial of T'Annetill and Saunders, of Beaufort county, praying for the exclusive privilege of navigating Bar river with steam boats, in consideration of their removing obstructions in the navigation of said river, referred to the committee on internal improvement.

Mr. Moye of Greene, from the committee of claims, reported unfavorably on the resolution to allow compensation to J. Coloway, a member of the house of commons at a former session, while detained by sickness at Raleigh after the adjournment; and on motion of Mr. McQueen, the resolution was postponed till the 4th March next.

The Senate took up the bill more effectually to suppress the vice of gaming.

Mr. Wilson offered an amendment, in effect, providing against giving a magistrate power to issue his warrant, as is provided in this bill, commanding any constable or other person to enter any building where they may suspect there are gaming tables, or other implements of gambling, to seize them, carry them into the street, and burn them,—also to strike out the whipping proposed to be inflicted on those who may be convicted of keeping gaming houses, and to include playing at billiards, backgammon and cards, where money or property shall be lost or won, in the prohibition.

Mr. Wychie moved to except backgammon boxes; which however, was not agreed to.

Mr. Bryan spoke against Mr. Wilson's amendment. Mr. B. looked upon gaming houses as an intolerable nuisance in any community, and the keepers of them as the most despicable wretches, in human shape, that are suffered to roam abroad. If the Legislature has the right to say what shall constitute a nuisance, can it be denied that she has an equal right to prescribe the mode of abating that nuisance? Most assuredly not.

Messrs. McQueen and Wilson spoke in favor of the motion, and Messrs. Edwards and Moore of Rutherford against it, and Mr. Cooper of Martin against the bill.

Mr. Marsteller moved for a division of the question, so as first to take the vote on striking out the clauses proposed to be amended; and on calling the yeas and nays it appeared that the Senate refused to strike out, yeas 28 noes 31. Mr. Wilson's amendment was of course rejected.

Mr. Little moved to amend, by striking out billiards from the proviso, so as to include that game in the prohibition.

Mr. Melbane opposed the motion.

Messrs. Wilson and Little supported the amendment; which was finally adopted by the Senate.

And the bill passed its second reading, yeas 40, noes 17; backgammon being the only game excepted in it.

Monday, Dec. 5.—Messrs. Harry Wychie and Moore of Rutherford, were appointed on the part of the Senate, together with Messrs. Carson, Cansler and Dudley, on the part of the commons—a joint select committee, on the bill for incorporating the Charleston on a Cincinnati Rail Road Company.

Mr. Wychie afterwards reported favorably on the bill to incorporate this company. The bill to repeal that part of the act of 1833 to recharter the Bank of Cape Fear which obliges the bank to establish a branch at Raleigh, was taken up, and on its second reading rejected.

Dec. 9.

Mr. Wychie from the Committee of Finance, reported that they had examined the state of the Treasury, and found it kept according to the requirements of the act of 1827; and that they had burnt Treasury notes to the amount of \$3,100.

Mr. Polk, from the joint committee to which that part of the Governor's message relating to incendiary publications had been referred, reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were laid on the table and ordered to be printed:

Whereas, the proceedings of certain persons in the middle and eastern States during the past

summer, have furnished clear proof of a determination to promote, by means the most unjust, and iniquitous, the abolition of slavery in the States of the Union in which it now exists,—and whereas, as well from the wealth, number, and assiduity of the persons engaged in this criminal purpose, as from the means they have resorted to, to accomplish their designs, serious fears are entertained that our property, the peace of our country, and the Union of our States, may be endangered thereby,—this General Assembly feeling called upon by a just regard for the interests and happiness of the good people of this State, and of the other States similarly situated, as well as by an anxious solicitude for the preservation of the Union, which at present so happily unites all the States into one confederated people, to declare the opinions, and set forth the purposes of the people of this State, in language at once firm, clear, decided and temperate.

When the American Colonies first united for protection from the encroachments upon their rights and privileges, made by the King and Parliament of Great Britain, they assumed the character of sovereign and independent States, and entered into an association which was not a league,—leaving the direct power of operating upon the citizens of each State, with their own constituted authorities; and when the present constitution was adopted, though to all general purposes, it constituted the people of the States one people with one government, having a direct legislative, judicial, and executive authority over the citizens, yet it declared by specific enumeration, the several instances of power granted to the government, and solemnly cautioned, out of abundant caution, that the powers not granted, belong to the States respectively, or to the people. At the time when this constitution was adopted, as well as at the time when the confederation was formed, each of the States recognized the right of its citizens to hold slaves. The constitution contains no grant of a power to any department of the government, to control the people of any State, in regard to its domestic institutions—certainly not in regard to that now in question. It is clear, therefore, that the whole power of regulating this subject within this State, of North Carolina, is vested now in the authorities of this State, as fully as on the day of the Independence of the States was vested in the several States, and no interference of the Federal Government is possible.

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