against the measures propounded of Medical Reform, as prepared in the bills already before us, and also of those which may yet appear; such opinions may facilitate and simplify the measures which may be adopted to free, aid, and protect a useful and indefatigable class of men, who always have been, and I hope always will be, foremost where duty and danger calls them into action, whether it be to relieve disease in suffering humanity, or for the universal good of their fellow-creatures.—I am, gentlemen, yours faithfully,

THOMAS JEFFREYS.

Liverpool, Jan. 20, 1841.

ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN JOURNALS.

Journal de Chimie, &c. Jan. 1841.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION OF THE BLOOD, PUS, ETC.

By M. LETELLIER, Saint Lau.

THE following are the conclusions which the author of this memoir has arrived at:—

1. It is impossible to prove by microscopic examination that the red globules of human blood are formed of a nucleus and pellicle; but the microscope and chemical tests show that they are chiefly formed of an envelope, which is probably fibrinous, the colour of which entirely depends on the iron contained in it, and of a transparent nucleus, which is invisible in water, but becomes visible when the fluid is saturated with a neutral salt. This nucleus is not acted on by acids, although they render it opaque; by putrefaction; by the sub-salts; nor by boiling with alkalis; it presents the properties of albumen, which has been coagulated by an acid.

2. The albumen of the blood is evidently formed of transparent granules, which become opaque under the action of alcohol or acids.

3. The coagulable lymph which is effused from the surfaces of a wound, contains all the elements of the blood, except the red colouring matter of the globules.

4. Pus is chiefly composed of blood-globules, deprived of their colouring matter, and rendered opaque; of a small quantity of vesicles, formed by fibrinous cells; and, finally, of fragments of fibrine.

5. Skimmed milk contains the opaque nuclei of the globules, and a peculiar matter, which is probably composed of fibrine altered by an acid, and necessary for the formation of a coagulum.

6. Cream contains these two principles likewise, but an extremely small quantity of the latter;—blood-globules deprived of their colouring matter, and a peculiar fatty substance, heavier than water, which adheres to the containing vessel, and is of a vesicular shape.

NEW TEST FOR SULPHUREOUS WATERS.

M. DUPASQUIER, taking advantage of the well-known property of starch to strike a blue colour with free iodine, has suggested a very simple means of testing sulphureous waters.

A few drops of a clear solution of starch are mixed with the sulphureous water, which is then to be saturated with an alcoholic solution of iodine. The iodine immediately forms hydro-iodic acid, and precipitates the sulphur; but as soon as the sufficient quantity of iodine has been employed, the slightest drop of the solution in excess will immediately act on the starch, and indicate that the fluid is completely saturated. If we employ a measure tube in pouring in the solution of iodine, we can at once see the quantity used, and thus calculate the equivalent in hydro-sulphuric acid, or sulphur. This method, then, furnishes us with an easy means of testing sulphureous waters, and indicates the smallest quantity of sulphur present with very great nicety.

SULPHUR, A PREVENTIVE OF LEAD COLIC,

THE following fact would seem to indicate that sulphur exercises considerable influence in preventing the bad

effects of lead on the system: at all events it may, perhaps, induce some of our medical men who have ample opportunity to give the prophylactic a trial.

A workman, employed in a factory where lead was much used, complained frequently of colicky pains, &c. which compelled him to give up his work. He was ordered to take every evening two drachms of the following:—honey, two ounces; sulphur, one ounce. Each drachm of this electuary contained six grains of sulphur. During the space of two months he continued to take the sulphur, and remained free from all attacks of colic. He then got tired of the remedy, and was soon seized again with pains in the abdomen, &c. He was now ordered to take nine or ten of the sulphur lozenges of the pharmacopœia daily, and since he has been in the habit of taking them, he has continued to be completely free of the disease.

METHOD OF FABRICATING GELATINE CAPSULES. BY M. SINNONIN, OF NANCY.

THE fabrication of gelatine capsules, having been protected by patents, has hitherto remained confined to one or two individuals, who have reaped very considerable profit from the speculation; we are therefore glad to be enabled to describe a method which may be employed by any apothecary or druggist.

A piece of hard wood, of oblong shape, is divided into two parts, and along the middle surface of each part, small semi-cavities (of the size and form of the capsules which we wish to make) are formed, something like the sides of a bullet-mould. Each cavity is joined to the one next to it by a narrow furrow. Thus we make a species of mould. The cavities are now to be moistened, and then filled with melted wax; and on separating the two sides of the mould we have a number of solid bodies composed of wax. Each of the latter is then pierced with a fine iron pivot, and the whole arranged in order on a small wooden rod. The latter is then dipped in a warm solution of pure gelatine, just as is done in making candles. The rod is then exposed to dry warm air, in a moderately heated stove, until the coat of gelatine becomes dry. The next step is to withdraw the rod, and to place the capsules, the end downwards, on tin plates, pierced with a number of holes to receive the points of the capsules. On again submitting them to heat, the wax melts, escapes through the foramina left by the rod, and the gelatine capsule remains, ready for use. In Berlin this method has been employed, except that, instead of wax, resin dissolved in alcohol is used. These capsules, when very pure isinglass has been employed, are thin, transparent, tenacious, and much less liable to break than those prepared by Messrs. Mothès.

IRON PILLS.

THE difficulty of making up the preparations of iron into pills may be overcome in the following manner:—take of protosulphate of iron, and pure sub-carbonate of potash, each equal parts; reduce both separately to a fine powder, and then rub them together in a mortar, mixing them carefully until they begin to liquify; then add a sufficient quantity of purified honey, to render the mass completely liquid. This done, place the mortar over a slow fire, and bring the mass to the consistence necessary for the formation of pills. The pills thus made are not subject to decomposition, and the mass remains fit for use during a very long time.

Journal des Connaissances Medico-Chirurgicales.
Jan., 1841.

THE original articles in this number of the Medico-Chirurgical Journal are, 1. Chemical and Medical History of Monesia, by Messrs. Derosne, Henry, and Payen. 2. New mode of preparing the syrup of the Balsam of Tolu.

The following is the method adopted by M. Lowradour for the confection of the syrup of Tolu:—take of balsam of Tolu, 90 scruples; alcohol, at 33°, 100 scruples; water, 1000 scruples; white sugar, 2000: reduce the sugar to a

coarse powder; dissolve the balsam in the warm alcohol; then pour the boiling fluid on the sugar, stir up, and leave it for eighteen or twenty-four hours in an earthen vessel, covered with gauze. Stir the mixture occasionally. The sugar will now be quite dry, of a pale rose colour, and emitting strongly the aromatic odour of the balsam. The sugar and water are now placed in a common glass capsule, and gentle heat applied by means of the sand bath, until the sugar be completely dissolved. It is then allowed to cool slowly, filtered through paper, and a perfectly clear aromatic syrup is obtained.

By this simple process a saving of two-thirds in the quantity of balsam used is obtained, without any deterioration of quality in the syrup.

CHEMICAL AND MEDICAL PROPERTIES OF MONESIA.

THIS remedy was introduced into Europe about three years ago, from South America. The plant or tree from which it is obtained is unknown at present. One hundred parts of the bark contains 4.7 of an acrid matter (*monesine*), analogous to saponine; 7.5 of tannin; 9.2 of red colouring matter, like that of Peruvian bark, and some salts, &c. The pharmaceutical preparations are, an extract, syrup, tincture, and the active principle, or *monesine*.

The remedy has been extensively employed in France, and in this country, by Drs. Billing, Roupel, Sigmond, Beattie, and Graves.

The following are the affections in which monesia has been employed with the most advantage.

Bronchitis.—Monesia has been frequently tried in the chronic stage of bronchitis, either alone or in combination with opium; in the greater number of cases it has been productive of much advantage, in rendering the respiration easier, in facilitating expectoration, and acting as a general tonic.

Imperfect digestion.—Monesia exercises a very favourable influence on the digestive process, especially in cases where the power of the stomach has been weakened by long-continued disease, excessive loss of blood, &c. Several examples are cited by the authors.

Chronic gastritis; gastro-enteritis.—In this class of diseases monesia has often succeeded when every other remedy had failed.

In *Diarrhœa*, particularly, it has been found most useful. At the hospital of Val-de-Grâce, M. Alquié tried this remedy on forty-two patients affected with diarrhœa, of various degrees; thirty-six were speedily cured.

M. Monod communicates the following examples:—

CASE I.—A man, 36 years of age, had laboured under chronic diarrhœa for many years; he was reduced by it to a very great degree of weakness and emaciation. A variety of remedies had been employed, without avail. The extract of monesia was administered, in the dose of sixteen grains a day; and his improvement was rapid. In a fortnight the evacuations were healthy, and the patient was enabled to return home. Six months later he had remained free from the complaint.

CASE II.—A young man, 24 years of age, was affected with chronic diarrhœa and all the symptoms of ulceration of the mucous membrane of the intestinal canal. He was ordered to live upon rice, and to take the extract of monesia. By these means the complaint was quickly subdued, although every remedy employed before then, had produced little or no effect.

M. Baron has frequently used monesia, with the best effects, in those cases of diarrhœa which occur towards the end of typhoid fever. It likewise exercises a very favourable influence on the diarrhœa of consumptive patients, checking the abundant evacuations, without increasing the night sweats, as opium does.

Metrorrhagia.—On the mucous lining of the uterus, also, this remedy seems to act with very great power. M. Danyau, from the trials which he has made, says that it is more efficacious in checking uterine hæmorrhage than any

other remedy usually employed in such cases. M. Martin Saint-Ange has published several cases of metrorrhagia cured by monesia. In one case cold drinks, ligatures on the limbs, dry cupping-glasses, and other revulsives were tried, without success. A scruple of the extract of monesia had been given, without benefit; M. St. Ange then administered four grains every hour, and on the same day the hæmorrhage ceased, and did not recur.

In several other cases of uterine hæmorrhage, independent of organic disease, the remedy produced equally good effects.

In many other diseases monesia was administered; but for an account of its action in such cases, we must refer our readers to the original memoir, which is well worthy of their attention.

The extract of monesia may be given in doses of from sixteen to twenty-four grains; in common cases this dose is sufficiently strong, but in long-standing diarrhœa, violent flooding, &c. it is often necessary to give as much as thirty-six grains during the twenty-four hours.

LETTER FROM DR. WEBSTER.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—If you had merely inserted my letter of explanation in your last week's Journal, I should have rested satisfied without again troubling you or your readers; but as you have bestowed upon it another editorial article, I think I am fairly entitled to a few words in reply.

You repeat the charges against myself and the British Medical Association, of which I consider I have reason to complain; and you appear to me to draw unjust inferences from the circumstance of the Association having so far sanctioned the general features of a bill, which the council has since proceeded to consider in detail, and to give their opinion upon. You state "we were not mistaken in accusing that body of *prejudging the question*," and "what we complained of is *the dictation* implied in the adoption of the bill by the British Association (according to Dr. Webster we must also implicate the general body in *this hasty and ill-advised proceeding*) as the bill to be supported by the weight of their influence *before they had conferred* with the representatives of other important bodies," &c. (The italics are mine.)

Now if the question of Medical Reform is not to be *prejudged*, *aye*, and *maturely and thoroughly considered*, by the councils of the different associations, I ask how they can possibly instruct their representatives in the conduct they are to pursue, and in the principles and details they are to contend for, when they meet in London? If the Provincial Medical Association, or its council, have not "*prejudged the question*"—have not agreed to certain heads and details of a reform measure, how can Dr. Barlow and Dr. Forbes represent the opinions of the Association? Or if the question have been referred to a reform committee, of which these gentlemen are members, how can they represent or act upon the opinion of this smaller section, unless they have fully discussed all the principles, all the details, and all the intricate bearings of the subject, and come to some conclusion thereon?—in fact, have prejudged the case. If neither of these plans have been pursued, then the two worthy doctors can only represent themselves and act upon *their own opinions*, not those of the Provincial Association! That Dr. Barlow has "*prejudged the case*," and arrived at certain conclusions, however obtained, I have the best evidence possible, in having received from him a paper containing some admirable suggestions and observations on my bill, for which I feel greatly indebted to him, as well as to others who have favoured me with similar remarks. If there is indeed to be no *prejudgment* of the question before the meeting of delegates, how can those associations who may appoint gentlemen resident in London as their representatives indicate their wishes to them?