cases wherein its exercise, or the absence of it, in the sick room, is so much felt, and made so very apparent? Husbands in the case of their wives, fathers in the case of their children, will have reason to thank us if we contribute, as we would do, by our system in this College, to the education in medicine and surgery, not only of the skilful practitioner, but of the moral and religious man, and the accomplished English gentleman. This is our aim and object.

Drawing towards a conclusion, I beg now to thank the students generally, and the professors, and the members of the Council in particular, for the kind indulgence with which they received my imperfect services as *pro tempore* warden during my four months' residence among them at the conclusion of last term. Attempting, however feebly, to carry out into practice that system which in this address I have recommended, my first object was to treat the medical students as gentlemen, whilst I expected from them regularity, order, and discipline; and they were regular, they were orderly, they did maintain discipline. My study was never to act as a spy upon their movements, but to treat them with entire confidence, and that confidence was not to my knowledge in any instance abused. From the experience then of those four months, I would venture to augur well for the future. Collegiate rules are essential to the comfort of all, and the happiness of all—without such rules there could be nothing but confusion; therefore, obedience to rules becomes imperative. My young friends well know this. They know that they are sent here to gain a knowledge of their future profession in all its branches, and that without study no genius can make them accomplished practitioners. There is no royal road to an acquaintance with the bones, and muscles, and nerves—to a knowledge of the symptoms of internal disease—to a knowledge of the properties of minerals and vegetables; intuitive perception cannot teach them the diagnosis of disease, pharmacy, pathology, or hygiene. May I then hope, that my young friends will press forward in the course of study, and give themselves up steadily to their professional avocations in the college, and at the hospital, in the lecture-room, and in the dissecting room. The importance of this year, with regard especially to the junior department of the College, is greater than I can well express. If we begin well, we may hope to fix the confidence of the public, and to confirm their patronage, and thus greatly extend our means of usefulness. In addition to which, be it remembered, we have placed ourselves in the foremost rank, by originating our present system of improved medical education in the junior department. If we fail we may throw back and discourage similar attempts in other places. But if we succeed, we may thereby raise the whole platform of medical and surgical education, and thus contribute, according to our means, towards an important national work. As a small additional incentive to study, I propose at the close of this academic year, to divide among the prizemen generally, in-doors and out, the sum of £100. £5 to such as gain one prize; £15. to such as gain two prizes, and so in proportion, as far as the sum I have mentioned will extend.

Finally, my young friends, to Him, I commend you without whose aid all our efforts are useless. To him who alone is able to give you ability, strength, and

perseverance. To Him who alone can enlighten your understanding, fill you with his spirit, and thus carry you onward on your way rejoicing, respectable and respected, approved, successful.

ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF COD-LIVER OIL IN TUBERCULAR DISEASES OF THE LUNGS.

By JONATHAN TOOGOOD, M.D., Torquay.

The cod-liver oil (*Oleum Jecoris Aselli*.) has long been known as a remedy for chronic rheumatism, but it does not appear to have been much employed in this country in other diseases until lately. Many ages ago something remedial seems to have been known to be in the liver and entrails of fish, for it is recorded in the "Book of Tobit," that the heart and liver of a fish were used to perform magical operations, and that the gall was employed as a cure for blindness. This proves at least some notion to have existed on the subject when that apocryphal book was written. The attention of the profession has been directed to the cod-liver oil within the last few years, and many cases are recorded in which it has been given with success in scrofulous diseases, tubercular affections, and rachitis, and still more recently, in tubercular diseases of the lungs. The opinions of medical men agree generally on its efficacy in many of the diseases in which it has been administered, although they differ widely on its beneficial effect in pulmonary affections. It is held in high estimation by the German physicians, who employ it extensively with great success, and in this country Dr. John Hughes Bennett has added his valuable testimony to the benefits which have resulted from its use in a treatise published in 1841,* in which he relates remarkable cases of recovery from tubercular disease of the lungs and hemoptysis, which have occurred in his own practice and that of others.

In the retrospective address delivered at the twelfth Anniversary Meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, Dr. Cowan, after adverting to its successful employment by Dr. A. Burgrave, Mr. Chalk, and Dr. Pereyra, concludes by saying, that the disgusting nature of the remedy is no small objection to its use, and anticipates its sinking into its former obscurity, and the Editor of the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal* declares it fit only for the stomach of an Esquimaux. It has been given by Dr. Percival, and Dr. Bardsley, of Manchester, with signal success, and within a short time a highly celebrated professor, at Edinburgh, told me that it was impossible to resist the body of evidence in its favour.

Such conflicting testimony can only be reconciled by a patient, extensive, and unprejudiced trial of its virtues. That it is an offensive medicine at first, must be acknowledged, (although in the opinion of some, not more so than some other medicines of that class,) but the objection to it is overcome much sooner than may be expected, and notwithstanding the first few doses often occasion nausea, the stomach soon becomes accustomed to its use, and large doses are easily borne, even by children, in its pure state.

In a class of diseases of such an unmerciful character

* "Treatise on the *Oleum Jecoris Aselli*."

as tubercular phthisis, so common, and so generally fatal, as hitherto to baffle the skill and researches of the most eminent physicians, it appears but reasonable to give every remedy which offers a chance of relief a fair trial. The opinion that tubercular degeneration of the lungs, and of the bronchial glands, is much more frequently susceptible of a favourable termination than has usually been supposed, is gaining ground, and if the cases are selected with judgment, and this remedy be carefully employed and persisted in for a sufficient length of time, the experience of competent judges encourages the hope of success, and is sufficient to warrant its exhibition. By the aid of auscultation disease of the lungs may be detected in its earliest stage, and the commencement of the disease offers the best time for stopping its progress. The oil may be administered with confidence, and best prospect of success, when no other symptoms are present which contra-indicate its use, but it has been given in cases in which the physical signs have yielded unequivocal proof of disorganization of the lungs with marked success. The pectoral symptoms have been greatly relieved, and the patient has gained flesh and strength.

My own experience is too limited at present to offer a decided opinion on its merits, but in every proper case in which I have witnessed its effects, it has not disappointed me. Whether or not the oleum jecoris aselli be given under more favourable circumstances in this locality, so justly celebrated for the mildness of its air, and so well adapted for all persons labouring under pulmonary disease, I cannot undertake to determine, although it seems very probable; but I can conscientiously state, that under the combined effects of both, I have witnessed extraordinary recoveries, which, in the opinion of experienced physicians, would have terminated fatally under different treatment, and in less congenial situations. The oil is a valuable remedy in all cases characterised by deficient action, in the system; but it cannot be supposed capable of benefitting *invariably* any of the diseases for the cure of which it has been highly extolled. It requires great practical tact for its successful administration, and no remedy demands greater attention to the circumstances which indicate, as well as those which contraindicate, its use; and in some cases it is necessary to conjoin other treatment, which must be determined by the judgment of the physician. It is of paramount importance to obtain it genuine from a source which can be relied on,* as a spurious oil is often substituted for it, which is not only exceedingly offensive, but inert in its effect, and brings its employment into disrepute. It seems probable that this remedy will have a fair trial in this town and neighbourhood, as one chemist alone has supplied upwards of thirty gallons within the last nine months.

The following quotation from the report of the Registrar General presents a melancholy picture of the dreadful ravages of consumption, and is quite sufficient to justify any plan of treatment which offers even a remote chance of benefit:—

"It appears that in 1838, 59,025 persons died from consumption in England and Wales, of which number, 27,935 were males, and 31,090 females.

* It is to be procured genuine from Duncan and Flockhart, North Bridge, Edinburgh.

"In 1839 the deaths were 59,539, of which number, 28,106 were males, and 31,433 females.

"In 1840, 90,823 persons died of diseases of the respiratory organs, of which number 31,090 English women died of consumption in one year.

"Twenty-seven and a-half per cent. of the total number of deaths were from diseases of the respiratory organs. Eighteen per cent. died of consumption, which disease was more fatal to females than to males by eight per cent.

"The higher mortality of English women by consumption, may be ascribed partly to the in-door life which they lead, and partly to the compression, preventing the expansion of the chest, by costume. In both ways they are deprived of free draughts of air, and the altered blood deposits tubercular matter with fatal facility. Will not this impressive fact induce persons of rank and influence to set their countrywomen right in the article of dress, and lead them to abandon a practice which disfigures the body and strangles the chest, produces nervous and other disorders, and has an unquestionable tendency to implant an incurable hectic malady in the frame? Girls have no more need of bones and bandages than boys."*

That improper compression of the chest, by impeding the natural functions of the lungs, may, and often does, occasion disease, cannot be denied; and it is equally true that the artificial expansion assists in removing it. Of this I lately saw a striking example in the case of a physician, whom I met at Professor Simpson's. He had suffered a long time from obstructed respiration, and had received much benefit from a steady perseverance in inhalation, by which the capacity of his chest had been increased one inch and a half by measurement.

At a future time I propose to illustrate these observations by cases, with the stethoscopic signs, several of which are steadily progressing towards recovery.

* Second Annual Report of the Registrar General, for 1840.

CASE OF ACUTE GLOSSITIS.

The following case of acute glossitis, recorded in the *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal* by Dr. Hamilton, affords some points of interest in connection with the cases recently communicated by Dr. England, of Wisbeach* :—

A black servant came from one of the western states, where many individuals had died of a disease called black tongue. After his arrival, he waited for three weeks on his master, who had received a fracture of the thigh; when, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he was heard to complain of a slight smarting sensation in his tongue, affecting mostly its right side:—"Within four hours afterwards, or by three o'clock in the afternoon, this sensation had assumed the character of a constant pain, attended by a sense of heat; and notwithstanding neither his pulse nor skin as yet indicated fever, it was thought proper to prescribe a dose of sulphate of magnesia, which he took without delay. In the course of the afternoon, and before the operation

* *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, Sept, 23rd, p. 453.