

with a perforated disc of wood forming its upper end, the lower end being open and stiffened by a brass rim. Outside the neck of a small wide-mouthed bottle is stretched a rubber ring; the lower end of the gauze cylinder fits over this, and makes a joint which allows the gauze cap to be put over the bottle tightly and removed easily. The wooden disc is perforated by a short bit of metal tube, to which is attached on one side the rubber tube from the stop-cock, and on the other a short piece of tubing leading into the glass bottle. The fragments and water come into the bottle, but the gauze prevents the former being carried out.

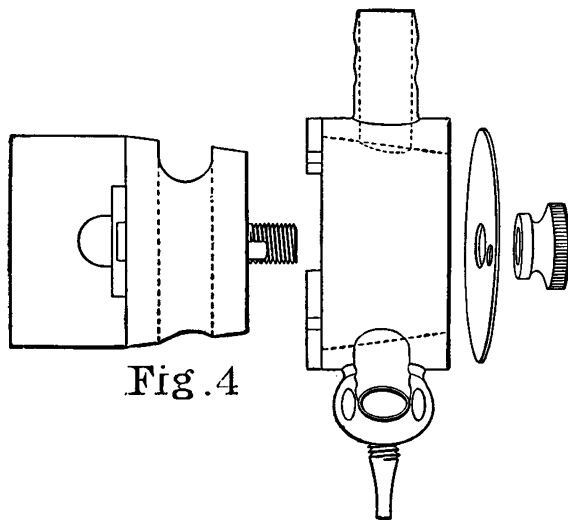


Fig. 4

Figure 4 shows the parts of the three-way-cock separated: on the left the plug of the stop-cock, next to this the shell, and on the right a disc and thumb-screw for holding the plug in place.

Although the apparatus was thought of while watching an operation for litholapaxy, it may be adapted to pumping or washing out any cavity or organ. When tested on a pig's bladder it worked admirably. It would seem that by this method the evacuation of the human bladder could be done quickly and neatly, without the entrance of air and with little risk.

Reports of Societies.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

TYPHUS FEVER IN NEW YORK.

At a stated meeting of the Academy, held May 19th, Professor Edward G. Janeway, one of the commissioners of the New York Board of Health, read a paper on the present outbreak of typhus fever in the city. In commencing he stated that typhus fever had occurred in New York during the last five years to a greater extent than was generally supposed; although it was by no means so common as one might infer from the reports of many of the German practitioners in the city, who, when they meant typhoid fever, frequently wrote *typhus*, and omitted to qualify it by the adjective *abdominalis*. Thus, last autumn an interesting group of cases had been discovered, which he had reported in considerable detail to the County Medical Society. A family of adults, living in the eastern part of the city, were affected with the disease, and the nurse who was

in attendance also contracted it. One of the family died, and the post mortem showed conclusively that the disease was typhus. The first one to be brought down with it was a young woman who was employed in a factory, and on investigation it was learned that a girl who worked with her had also been taken ill at the same time. The latter, it was then ascertained, was the last of a family living in an entirely different part of the city to be sick with a fever which was undoubtedly typhus. It was impossible to trace the origin of the disease further; but the people living in the same house stated that the family were "so filthy in their habits that they ought to have been sick." There was no other typhus in New York at the time (September, 1880).

For some time past typhus had prevailed to some extent in Philadelphia. One case had been reported to the Board of Health in October last, one in November, and several during the months of December, January, February, and March. It was noticeable that in October, November, and December there were an unusually large number of cases of typhoid in Philadelphia, and it seemed altogether probable that in some of these there must have been a mistaken diagnosis, the disease really being typhus. Since early last autumn there had been a continuous series of cases in London, Liverpool, and Dublin, and in some weeks there had been as many as ten deaths from it in the latter city. In other foreign cities also it had prevailed, and in St. Petersburg there were twenty or thirty deaths from it in February. In Camden, New Jersey, there were fifty deaths from typhus between November 15, 1880, and January 17, 1881.

In considering the history of the present outbreak of typhus fever in New York, two facts of importance present themselves. The first is that there were cases of the disease in the city before it made its appearance in the "Shiloh" lodging-house, at the corner of Prince and Marion Streets, and the second that this lodging-house for tramps constituted a favorable *nidus* for the fostering of the fever. In substantiation of the first statement Dr. Janeway mentioned a number of cases which had occurred previously, and stated that he had no doubt that there were still others in which the true diagnosis had been mistaken by the physicians in attendance, since the disease had been so comparatively rare in New York during the past ten years. The outbreak had commenced in March, and thirty, at least, of the cases had been distinctly traced to the lodging-house mentioned. Of the first fifty-six cases reported four deaths had occurred from other causes, and six from the typhus fever. The first post-mortem examination was made on the 19th of March on a patient who died on the 17th at Bellevue Hospital. The whole number of cases and deaths, tabulated according to the ages of the patients, was as follows:—

Under 15 years	8 cases	no deaths.
From 15 to 20 years	17 cases	3 deaths.
" 20 " 25 "	44 "	5 "
" 25 " 30 "	48 "	6 "
" 30 " 35 "	38 "	10 "
" 35 " 40 "	41 "	9 "
" 40 " 45 "	28 "	10 "
" 45 " 50 "	15 "	5 "
" 50 " 55 "	13 "	4 "
" 55 " 60 "	17 "	5 "
" 60 " 65 "	5 "	1 death.
" 65 " 70 "	6 "	3 deaths.
" 70 " 75 "	2 "	2 "
" 75 " 80 "	1 "	1 death.

Making in all 283 cases and 64 deaths. The greatest mortality had occurred among the patients received from Hart's Island, out of eleven cases there being only two recoveries. After the disease had once obtained a lodgment it spread, as a rule, by personal contact, although this could by no means be proved in every instance. In this connection Dr. Janeway mentioned several interesting cases in which the fever had been contracted with a minimum amount of exposure to it. Eight orderlies in the fever hospital had been attacked, and one had died from the disease, but not a single physician had as yet suffered from it, although many of those at the hospital, as well as those in the service of the Board of Health, had been very freely and constantly exposed to it.

Dr. Janeway then went on to speak of the measures which had been adopted by the authorities to prevent the spread of typhus. Unless complete isolation could be secured (which was rare in the class generally attacked by the disease) the patients were removed to the hospital on Blackwell's Island, while the premises which had been occupied by them were disinfected and fumigated with sulphurous acid, and, if it was deemed advisable, ordered to be altogether vacated by the families. The clothing was burned, and in cases where the poverty of the individual rendered this necessary new clothing was furnished by the Board of Health. An extra corps of physicians was appointed for the purpose of visiting and inspecting the various cheap lodging-houses in the city, and insisting that there should be at least three hundred cubic feet of air for each inmate. A most rigid and constant inspection both by night and day was maintained by this corps, and still another corps was appointed for the special purpose of tracing the history of each individual case. On Blackwell's Island the disease was treated in tents, and the patients were fed upon milk and beef tea, and allowed as much stimulus as the circumstances of each case required. When the degree of temperature demanded it cold sponging and the use of Kibber's cot were resorted to.

The matter of cheap lodging-houses Dr. Janeway considered to be one of importance from a sanitary point of view, and there could be no doubt that even when they were well conducted there was in them a source of more or less danger in the way of infectious diseases. Thus the very one which was started with a semi-philanthropic view, the "Shiloh" house, had given the most trouble in the present outbreak of typhus. Such places attracted a large number of tramps and other worthless characters to the city in the winter, and really made New York the cheapest place in which they could live. The allowance of three hundred cubic feet of air for each individual, which was insisted on in the New York lodging-houses, was fifty feet in excess of the requirement of the London poor-law. As to the various hospitals in the city, he thought that every such institution should have an isolated pavilion, containing several rooms, in which every suspicious case of disease could at once be placed. There was a pavilion of this kind attached to the German hospital, and he hoped that before long all the hospitals in New York would be similarly provided.

The president, Dr. Fordyce Barker, after alluding in complimentary terms to the energy which Dr. Janeway, in his capacity as health commissioner, had displayed in dealing with the fever, called upon Professor Flint, who remarked that the facts of the paper touched upon

some very interesting points, especially in regard to ætiology. The first question suggested was, whether typhus fever always required a special cause or germ (either literal or figurative) developed in the body of an individual affected with the disease, or whether this cause was capable of being originated *de novo*. Some years ago he had known of an outbreak of typhus which occurred in an isolated county almshouse that was overcrowded, and whose rooms were small and badly ventilated, and in this instance, at least, it was quite impossible to trace the disease to importation from without. Other similar and equally well authenticated cases were on record; but in no one of them could it be positively asserted that the disease might not possibly have been imported, and the matter must still be regarded, he supposed, as an open question.

Assuming, however, for the time being, that the disease required a germ for its development, it must be granted that we did not know how long this germ might retain its vitality so as to be capable of full activity under favorable circumstances. It might, perhaps, remain long latent, like the kernels of grain buried with an Egyptian mummy.

Another important point brought out by Dr. Janeway's paper was the vast difference in susceptibility to the disease which was found to exist in different individuals; so that it seems to be a fact that certain accessory causes were necessary for its development in addition to the germ itself. Especially did effluvia from human bodies and defective ventilation seem to stand in this relation, and those who believed that typhus was capable of originating *de novo* held that it could be produced by a concentrated effluvia.

In regard to the prevention of the diffusion of the disease the importance of the matter was sufficiently apparent, and he had no doubt that the present outbreak would soon be stamped out by means of the active measures which had been adopted by the Board of Health. In this connection Dr. Flint referred to the suppression of cholera some years ago by the New York Health Board, which he regarded as one of the most brilliant achievements in its history, and also to their more recent triumph in completely stamping out small-pox in the city.

Professor Loomis said that he was especially interested in the paper because it brought vividly to mind his experience with typhus in 1862 and 1863, when he himself was called upon to deal with an epidemic of greater severity than the present outbreak. At Bellevue Hospital as many as fourteen cases of it were sometimes admitted in a single day; the patients being brought from various parts of the city, although the greater part of them came from Baxter Street and the streets and alleys adjoining. In making his investigations concerning the history of the outbreak, he finally ascertained that the outbreak probably originated in the case of a little girl who came out from Ireland to visit an aunt here. The aunt, who lived on the top floor of a rear tenement-house, took the disease and died, and the fever then gradually made its way down through the other floors of the house; after which it spread to the building in front. Some of the families soon became alarmed and went to other habitations, and thus, no doubt, the disease was carried to different parts of the city.

He was not one of those who believed that it was necessary to trace any outbreak of typhus to importation at the time; but he considered it a disease which

was indigenous to certain localities, where it could always be found, while in all other localities it was always imported. The same was true of yellow fever, which we should not expect to originate in New York, although when once introduced it was well known how it could develop there under suitable conditions. The poison of typhus, he believed, was brought to this city more frequently than was generally supposed; but the conditions were not always favorable for its development and spread.

The questions suggested by the paper were: (1.) Is typhus fever a disease of spontaneous origin? (2.) Is it propagated in other ways than by personal contact? (3.) What are the best means for arresting its development and diffusion? The miserable tramps which infested the city in the winter were in every way fitted to bring contagion, and it was always a very difficult matter to find out where they came from. In all large cities it was, indeed, often impossible to trace the origin of epidemics. The case mentioned by Dr. Flint was the strongest one of which he knew in favor of the spontaneous origin of typhus, and yet it by no means afforded certain proof of this. Then, as to the second point in the outbreak of which he had spoken, the clothing of the typhus-fever patients in Bellevue was stored in pigeon-holes, and a certain portion of it was washed; yet, so far as he knew, not a single individual who was engaged in handling these clothes contracted the disease. On the other hand, all those who carried the patients and all the nurses and physicians who were sufficiently exposed were taken with it. In order to contract typhus, he believed that the exposure must, as a rule, be long and intimate; and he thought that the reason why the hospital physicians had escaped in the present outbreak was because the patients were treated in tents, and the ventilation was thus as perfect as possible. In the way of prevention fresh air was the *sine qua non*, and he knew of nothing which had the same power not only of preventing it, but also of relieving the symptoms after the disease had become developed. In many cases a vast improvement had been noticed in patients immediately after their removal from badly ventilated rooms to tents. In conclusion Dr. Loomis remarked that the disease was always most fatal in those past middle life, and stated that among sixty cases which he had seen in children there was scarcely a death.

Dr. John C. Peters said that he had felt certain that the famine in Ireland last year would be followed by typhus fever, and feared that with the enormous amount of immigration that was taking place the disease would quickly spread to New York; yet there was no history of any such importation in the present outbreak. For his part, he believed in the spontaneous origin of typhus fever from the decomposition of organic matter, and he had never known the city to be in a filthier state than it was last autumn; so that the conditions are altogether favorable for its development here. Typhus fever was a filth disease, and the tramps among whom it spread were more dirty than they would otherwise have been on account of the disgraceful condition of the streets. He had no doubt that it would be stamped out, but at the same time he could not but believe that if we had had a cleaner city the outbreak would have been prevented. He considered that there was now abundance of proof that certain diseases like diphtheria and typhus might originate *de novo*, and was convinced that they arose thus spontaneously both in New York and Philadelphia.

Dr. E. H. Janes, assistant sanitary superintendent, explained that the Shiloh lodging-house had not been closed at once on the discovery of typhus there, because it was believed to be safer to keep a constant and thorough supervision over it than to scatter the disease to other localities by driving out the lodgers.

In the course of some concluding remarks Dr. Janeway said that he could not understand why those handling the clothing of typhus-fever patients in the epidemic to which Dr. Loomis had referred had all escaped the disease, for it was certainly contrary to the usual experience in typhus; and Dr. Barker then related two instances in which the infection was conveyed by the clothing alone.

Before adjournment some resolutions similar to those passed by the County Medical Society were adopted, congratulating Spencer Wells (who is an associate Fellow of the Academy) on the completion of one thousand cases of ovariectomy, by means of which the lives of seven hundred and sixty-nine women had been saved; and the president, Dr. Barker, who expected to sail for England on the 21st, was instructed to present the resolutions to Mr. Wells in person.

THE AMERICAN NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of the Neurological Association was held in the hall of the Academy of Medicine, New York, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, June 15th, 16th, and 17th, with the president, Dr. Roberts Bartholow, of Philadelphia, in the chair. At the first session, Wednesday afternoon, the following papers were read: Tendon Reflex in General Paralysis of the Insane, by Dr. J. C. Shaw, of Brooklyn; The Central Nervous System of Reptiles, by Dr. John J. Mason, of Newport, R. I. (read by the secretary); The Action of an Irritant, by Dr. Isaac Ott, of Pennsylvania; and Peculiar Effects of Bromide of Potassium in Insane Epileptics, by Dr. H. M. Bannister, of Chicago (read by the secretary). At the evening session on Wednesday, Dr. A. D. Rockwell, of New York, read a report of a case of peripheral paralysis resulting from pressure, after which the report of a most remarkable case, designated as one of destructive lesion of the left hemisphere, which had been presented by Dr. H. D. Schmidt, of New Orleans, was read by the secretary. Dr. J. S. Jewell, of Chicago, then read a paper on the Early Use of Strychnia in Myelitis, the title of which he afterwards changed to the following: On the Early and Free Use of Strychnia in Subacute Myelitis and Allied Forms of Disease of the Spinal Cord.

At the Thursday afternoon session the first scientific business was the discussion of Dr. Jewell's paper, after which Dr. W. J. Morton, of New York, read a paper on A New Induced Current of Electricity, a title which was subsequently modified so as to read, The Static Induced Current of Electricity. The following papers were also read at this session: The Hypothetical Auditory Tract, by Dr. Graeme Hammond, of New York; The Medical Use of Static Electricity, by Dr. George M. Beard, of New York; and How to Use the Bromides, also by Dr. Beard. In the evening an elegant reception was given to the Association and their friends by Dr. W. A. Hammond at his residence on Fifty-Fourth Street.

At the session on Friday afternoon the following papers were read: Nerve-Stretching in Progressive Locomotor Ataxia, by Dr. W. A. Hammond; Ciliary Spasm of Central Origin, by Dr. H. Gradle, of Chicago; A Case of Diffuse Myelitis, by Dr. F. T. Miles, of Baltimore; and A New Foot Dynamometer, by Dr. W. R. Birdsall, of New York. Dr. Graeme Hammond also gave a description of a new instrument of similar character which he had devised. At the concluding session, Friday evening, the following papers were presented: Case of Tumor of the Pons, with Specimen, by Dr. F. T. Miles, of Baltimore; Case of Tumor of the Pons, with Conjugate Deviation of the Eyes and Rotation of the Head, by Dr. Charles K. Mills, of Philadelphia; Case of Chorea Major, by Dr. Frank P. Kinnicutt, of New York; Resistance of Tabetic Patients to Aconitia, by Dr. E. C. Seguin, of New York; and a Case of Post-Diphtheritic Paralysis, also by Dr. Seguin. In the latter the diphtheritic trouble was located in the anus, and had ensued upon a slough caused by the use of carbolic acid in the treatment of piles at the hands of an empiric. During the meeting of the Association the following papers were read by title only: Brain of Hydrocephalus from a Dog, by Prof. Burt G. Wilder, of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; Investigations into the Earlier and Obscure Symptoms of Lead-Poisoning, by Dr. J. J. Putnam, of Boston; On the Function of Nerve-Cells, by Dr. A. B. Clevenger, of Chicago.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: president, Dr. W. A. Hammond, of New York; vice-president, Dr. L. C. Gray, of Brooklyn; secretary and treasurer, Dr. E. C. Seguin, of New York; extra members of the council, Dr. J. S. Jewell, of Chicago, and Dr. Isaac Ott, of Pennsylvania. The following new active members were elected: Drs. H. Gradle and A. B. Clevenger, of Chicago, Drs. Charles K. Mills and Wharton Sinkler, of Philadelphia, and Prof. Burt G. Wilder, of Cornell University. Up to the present time there had been no provision in the constitution or by-laws for the creation of honorary members of the Association, but during this meeting amendments were made which permitted the appointment of both honorary and associate members, and the following gentlemen were elected to these positions: Honorary members, J. M. Charcot, of Paris; J. Hughlings Jackson, of London; W. Erb, of Leipsic; C. Westphal, of Berlin; and Theodore Meynert, of Vienna. Associate members: Thomas Stretch Dowse, of London; W. R. Gowers, of London; David Ferrier, of London; H. C. Bastian, of London; J. Russell Reynolds, of London; Moritz Bernhardt, of Berlin; Camillo Golgi, of Reggio, Italy; and Dr. Obersteimer, of Vienna. Dr. N. B. Emerson and Dr. Lombard, who had formerly been active members, were also constituted associate members, the one having moved to Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, and the other to London. The Association adjourned to meet in New York, as usual, on the third Wednesday in June, 1882.

— At a stated meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, held June 2d, the papers of the evening were as follows: (1.) The Use and Value of Artificially Digested Food, Peptone, by Dr. George B. Fowler. (2.) Photo-Micrography and its Application to Histology (illustrated), by Prof. J. W. S. Arnold.

Recent Literature.

The Sanitary Care and Treatment of Children and their Diseases. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. The Riverside Press, Cambridge. 1881.

This book is made up of a series of five essays, by Drs. Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson, Samuel C. Busey, A. Jacobi, J. Forsyth Meigs, and J. Lewis Smith, prepared by request of the trustees of the "Thomas Wilson Sanitarium" of Baltimore, Md. For the establishment of this sanitarium, the late Thomas Wilson, of Baltimore, bequeathed the munificent gift of five hundred thousand dollars, "for the purpose of securing a summer retreat for sick children from the heat and unhealthfulness of the city, and for such other kindred purposes as may be hereafter determined upon by the corporation." The trustees appointed by the testator for carrying out the provisions of the above trust decided, preliminary to the formation of any definite plan of procedure, as they tell us in their circular, "to correspond with a few persons at home and abroad who are eminent for their experience and success in the treatment and care of sick children, and to obtain essays from them, to be published for the benefit of this and similar institutions."

In these essays are considered, at the request of the trustees: "The best method of establishing a summer retreat for sick children under the most favorable hygienic and local conditions; the regulations suitable for receiving and administering medically and otherwise to those who shall be the proper objects of their care; the character of the buildings that may be requisite; how best to provide for mothers or nurses accompanying their children; and generally such incidental recommendations as experience or reflection may commend as valuable and useful." Suggestions were also asked for in reference to the most practicable means of lessening the risks and dangers incident to children exposed to the heated and impure atmosphere of a large city during the summer months; also as to the best methods of extending a general knowledge of simple hygienic rules for the treatment of children at home among the poorer classes.

The field of inquiry, it is thus seen, has been a wide one, and includes all practical points involved in the management of children. The high and scientific character of the authors of these five essays is a sufficient guarantee that the work has been well and thoroughly done; and it will subserve the double purpose of being a valuable work of reference for those who may be engaged in carrying out similar trusts, and at the same time most interesting and instructive reading for all concerned in the care and welfare of little children. The essays of Drs. J. Forsyth Meigs, and J. Lewis Smith should be read by all practitioners engaged in the treatment of children, dealing largely, as they do, with infant diet in health and disease, and with much detail.

The book is a credit to the publishers, and would make a handsome ornament to any parlor table.

TINCTURE FERRI CHLORIDI.

Dr. H. Hager recommends that tincture ferri chloridi be mixed with simple syrup and then with milk; this mixture not affecting the teeth, nor the usual styptic taste being apparent. — *Druggists' Circular.*