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Miscellaneous.

Observations on the Theory of Respiration

By WILLIAM STEVENS, M. D. D. C. L. Read May 21, 1835.

From the fact, that no carbonic acid gas is given out by venous blood, when that fluid is subjected to the action of the air pump, former experimentalists had inferred that this blood contains no carbonic acid. The author of the present paper contends, that this is an erroneous inference; first, by showing that serum, which had been made to absorb a considerable quantity of this gas, does not yield it upon the removal of the atmospheric pressure; and next, by adducing several experiments in proof of the strong attraction exerted on carbonic acid both by hydrogen and by oxygen gases, which were found to absorb it readily through the medium of moistened membrane. By means of a peculiar apparatus, consisting of a double-necked bottle, to which a set of bent tubes were adapted, he ascertained that venous blood, agitated with pure hydrogen gas, and allowed to remain for an hour in contact with it, imports to that gas a considerable quantity of carbonic acid. The same result had, indeed, been obtained in a former experiment, by the simple application of heat to venous blood confined under hydrogen gas; but, on account of the possible chemical agency of heat, the inference drawn from that experiment, is less conclusive than from experiments in which the air-pump alone is employed. The author found that, in like manner, atmospheric air, by remaining for a sufficient time, in contact with venous blood, on the application of the air-pump, acquires carbonic acid. The hypothesis that the carbon of the blood attracts the oxygen of the air into the fluid, and there combines with it, and that the carbonic acid thus formed, is afterwards exhaled, appears to be inconsistent with the fact, that all acids, and carbonic acid more especially, impart to the blood a black color; whereas the immediate effect of exposing venous blood to atmospheric air, or to oxygen gas, is a change of color from a dark to a bright scarlet, implying its conversion from the venous to the arterial character; hence the author infers, that the acid is not formed during the experiment in question, but already exists in the venous blood, and is extracted from it by the atmospheric air. Similar experiments made with oxygen gas, in place of atmospheric air, were attended with the like results, but in a more striking degree; and tend, therefore, to corroborate the views entertained by the author of the theory of respiration. According to these views, it is neither in the lungs, nor generally in the course of the circulation, but only during its passage through the capillary system of vessels, that the blood undergoes the change from arterial to venous; a change consisting in the formation of the carbonic acid, by the addition of particles of carbon derived from the soft textures of the body, and which had combined with the oxygen supplied by the arterial blood; and it is by this combination that heat is evolved, as well as a dark colour imparted to the blood. The author ascribes, however, the bright red colour of arterial blood, not to the action of oxygen, which is of itself completely inert as a coloring agent, but to that of the same ingredients naturally contained in healthy blood. On arriving at the lungs, the first change induced on the blood is effected by the oxygen of the atmospheric air, and consists in the removal of the carbonic acid, which had been the source of the dark colour of the venous blood; and the second consists in the attraction by the blood of a portion of oxygen, which it absorbs from the air, and which takes the place of the carbonic acid. The peculiar texture of the lungs, and the elevation of temperature in warm-blooded animals, concur in promoting the rapid production of these changes.

Tea, Coffee and Tobacco.

Three plants at this moment connect three different quarters of the Globe which for ages would have known little of each other without them. China is connected with Eng-

land by scarcely any other link than her tea; for three hundred years tobacco was the sole link between England and the Western world, and Arabia is to this moment scarcely bound to us but by her coffee. Such are the slender but powerful sources of national connexion. The discovery of coffee was not made until the latter part of the 13th century, and, like any other great discovery, it was the result of chance, adopted by necessity. An Arab, the Selchik Omar, fell under persecution in his own country, he and his disciples fled to a mountain in the province of Yemen, where in the desert, all usual food failed him; a coffee berry grew there wild, and the distressed refugee, as it was too hard for him to masticate, tried its effects in boiling; he drank the liquor, found himself revived, and made it immortal.

Yet recommended as it was by its refreshing properties, its spontaneous growth, and still more, such is the absurdity of mankind, by the example of a fool or knave, who called himself a saint, coffee took upwards of two centuries to make its way into the world. Even in its own country it was dishonored as a prophet among his kindred; and near as Egypt was, it was not till the third century from its discovery that it insinuated itself into the sober potatoes of the Egyptians. It is seldom that the world is indebted to superstition for any thing except cardinals and cardinals; but the follies of the Arab devotees in the land of the Pharaohs who in golden opinions of men by extravagances that would degrade the nudes they ride, were the first percentage of Egyptian Coffee-drinking. These wretched people, spending half their nights in watching, and half their existence in mortifying the withered flesh on their tawny bodies, found coffee essential to keep their bodies and souls together. The Turks next adopted it. It suited his laziness and his stupidity. The showy barbarian wanted nothing but tobacco to complete the curse, which to the slave and the sensualist, turns all the enjoyments of the senses into evil. Tobacco came to add perpetual intoxication to his catalogue of wiful calamities. It is a remarkable instance of the perversity of the human will when left to itself, that while coffee with all its singular powers of clearing the mind and refreshing the nerves, took nearly four hundred years to make itself known in Europe, and while the potato is scarcely more than coming into use in a large portion of the Continent, tobacco took little more than half a dozen years to be known as far as ships can carry it; that it is now the favorite filth of every savage lip within the circumference of the Globe that it fills the atmosphere of the continent with a perpetual stench; that the Spaniard sucks it, as he says, for the heat—the Dutchman for the cold—the Frenchman, because he has nothing else to do—the German, because he will do nothing else—the London and American apprentice and loafer because it makes him look like a gentleman—and all because it is in its own nature the filthiest, most foolish, dullest and most disgusting practice on the face of the earth. —Blackwood's Mag.

On the hair of Animals.—The hairs of animals, as seen through the microscope, appear to be organized bodies like the other parts, and by the variety of their texture and conformation, they afford much subject of agreeable observation. In general, they appear composed, long slender hollow tubes, or several small hairs covered with a common bark; others, such as those of Indian deer, are hollow quite through. The bristles of a cat's whiskers, when cut transversely, exhibit the appearance of a medullary part which occupies the middle, like the pith in a twig of the elder tree. Those of the hedgehog, contain a real marrow, which is whitish, and formed of radii.

Respect to Ladies.—I have found that the men who are really most fond of the society of ladies, who cherish for them a high respect, may reverence, are seldom the most popular with the sex. Men of more assurance, whose tongues are lightly hung, who make words supply the place of ideas, and place compliment in the room of sentiment are the favorites. A true respect for women leads to respectful action towards them, and respectful is usually distant action, and this distance is mistaken for neglect and want of sentiment.

Results of cutting down Forests.—A. M. Devez de Chabrol, in a memoir treating of the effects arising from the extirpation of forests, cites several historical documents, all tending to establish the fact that the temperature of the country is not only lowered by the taking away of the trees but that streams dry up, and rain ceases to fall. M. Boussingault confirms these by several instances, where lakes have been diminished in consequence of cutting down the neighboring woods, and the water restored to its former level by suffering the trees to grow again; also where the quantity of water has always remained the same when the woods near it have been left untouched. M. Boussingault states, that in some of the

provinces of South America, which are covered with wood, it rains every day; and in others, where the soil is sandy and arid, it never rains; yet these provinces have the same latitude and climate, and the projections and distances of mountains are nearly similar.

Self Love.—The most notorious swindler has not assumed so many names as self-love, nor is so much ashamed of his own. She calls herself patriotism; when at the same time she is rejoicing at just as much calamity to her native country, as will introduce herself into power, and expel her rivals. Dollington, who may be termed one of her darling sons, confesses, in his diary, that the source of all opposition is resentment, or interest, a resolution to pull down those who have offended us, without considering consequences; a steady and unvarying attention to propose every thing that is specious, but impracticable; to be precise every thing that is blameless; to exaggerate every thing that is blameable, until the party are excited to turn out those that are in office, and to admit those that are not. There are some patriots of the present day, who would find it as difficult to imitate Sheridan in his principles, as they would in his wit; and his noble conduct during the mutiny at the Nore, will cover a multitude of sins. There are moments when all minor considerations ought to yield to the public safety; and the opposition of this or any country might take useful hint from what was observed in the Roman senate; while a question was under debate, every one was at freedom to advance his objections, but the question being once determined on, it became the acknowledged duty of every member to support the majority.

DON'T BE DISCOURAGED.

Don't be discouraged, if the outset of life, does not go on smoothly. It seldom happens that the hopes we cherish of the future are realized. The path of life in the prospect, appears smooth and level enough, but when we come to travel it, we find it all up hill, and generally rough enough. The journey is a laborious one, and whether poor or wealthy, high or low, we shall find it so to our sorrow, if we have built on any other calculation. To endure what is to be endured with as much cheerfulness as possible, and to elbow our way as easily as we can get through the great crowd, hoping for little, yet striving for much, is perhaps the true plan.

Don't be discouraged, if occasionally you fall down by the way, and your neighbors trample over you a little; to other words don't let a failure, or two discourage you—accidents happen, mis-calculation will sometimes be made, things will turn out differently from our expectations, and we may be sufferers.—It is worth while to remember that prospects, are like the skies in April, sometimes clouded, sometimes clear and favorable; and as it would be folly to despair of again seeing the sun because to-day is stormy, so it is unwise to sink into despondency when fortune frowns, since in the common course of things, she may surely be expected to smile again.—And again—

Don't be discouraged, if you are deceived in the people of the world. It often happens that men wear borrowed characters, as well as borrowed clothes, those who have long stood fair in the eyes of the world, are very rotten at the core. From sources such as these, you may be most unexpectedly deceived, and you will naturally feel sore under such deceptions, but to those you will become used, if you fare as most people do, they will lose their novelty before you grow gray, and you will learn to trust more cautiously, and examine their characters closely, before you allow them great opportunities to injure you.

Don't be discouraged, under any circumstances. Go steadily forward.—Rather consult your conscience than the opinion of men, though the last are not to be disregarded. Be industrious, be frugal, be honest; deal in perfect kindness with all who come in your way, exercising a neighborly and obliging spirit in your whole intercourse, and if you do not prosper so rapidly as any of your neighbors, depend upon it you will be unhappy.

Zion's Herald.

POLITICAL BITTERNESS is the caption of an excellent article in the Baltimore Republican:

"There is a degree of bitterness frequently displayed by some politicians in speaking of political opponents, which cannot be otherwise than painful and disgusting to every generous mind. That difference of opinion will exist among men, is natural, and to suppose men dishonest who happen to entertain views which may be supposed to be incorrect, is to suppose that there cannot be any honest difference of opinion. That men who agree in opinion should en-

tertain a friendly feeling for each other is perfectly natural, but to indulge a feeling of hostility towards an individual because he happens to entertain views not entirely in accordance with our views, displays an unwillingness to allow to others the privilege which every man claims for himself, which is that of thinking for himself. Yet this is frequently the case; and it generally happens that those who are loudest in their protestations of a desire that every man should be left free to exercise his own judgment, and to form his own opinions, and who denounces the most boisterously those whom they supposed attempted to exercise an influence over others, and to control their opinions, display the greatest degree of bitterness in speaking of those who entertain opinions different from their own."

"The purest source of enjoyment is pointed out in Brown's Arthur Mervyn, where he says:

"My happiness depended not on the revolutions of nature or the caprice of man; all without was, indeed, vicissitude and uncertainty; but within my bosom was a centre not to be shaken or removed. My purposes were honest and steadfast; every sense was the inlet of pleasure, because it was the avenue of knowledge; and my soul brooded over the world of ideas, and glowed with exultation at the grandeur and beauty of its own creatures."

Singular Accident.—This morning about five o'clock, a load of hay, containing two tons, from Wenham, on its way to Boston, on the Salem Turnpike, took fire, and wagon and all, with the exception of three of the wheels, was consumed. The accident was occasioned by the friction on the axle-tree, which burnt till it broke off, and let the load down upon the fire.

Boston Transcript.

Suicidalism.—A young man named Knight, who boards in a house in Holiday street, below Saratoga, on Friday night got up while asleep and ascended to the roof of the house, which is three stories high, and jumped off on a one story house adjoining, a distance of about twenty feet, without injuring him otherwise than considerably bruising his face.—*Balt. Sun.*

Secret to the Memory of Heroes.—We learn from the Western papers that the battle ground of Tippecanoe is to be enclosed by a post and plank fence seven feet high. The work is to be completed by the coming Christmas, and an expense defrayed from the contingent fund at the disposal of the Governor of Indiana.

Restoration from the Effects of Prussic acid.—A servant of Mr. Sheldon, of Seymour street, Eastern Square, London, had caught a rat of no ordinary size and strength without injuring it, in a wire trap. He carried it to his master, who administered to it a drop of Prussic acid. From being extremely lively, it soon became torpid until vitality was supposed to be extinct. Mr. Sheldon then poured some water, in a rather sharp stream upon its head and back for a few seconds; he then placed it before the fire, and to the surprise of us all, the creature in a few minutes began to move, and soon became as lively as ever, and being retained in the cage, it brought forth on the following day, four young ones, all in a very healthy state.

The West.—The rapid advancement in population and wealth of the Western States, is one of the most remarkable events which has been recorded in political history for centuries. It is but a few years since the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi were unincultivated wilderness, only inhabited by the savage. The white was seldom seen in the prairies, and trail canoes were the only vessels that were seen in these waters. What a change a few short years has produced! The state of Ohio now numbers three hundred thousand inhabitants—the red men, the native lords of the soil, have been driven still farther to the West. Villages, towns, and cities, inhabited by a busy and thriving population have usurped the place of the lonely wigwam—and thousands of majestic stern bosoms of immense burthen, now navigate those rivers in lieu of bark canoes.

Indiana, during the last war with Great Britain, was not only uninhabited by the whites, but in a great measure unexplored. This tract of country is now a state, and sends seven representatives to Congress. The vast changes which within a few years have taken place in these regions appear like magic. And it will not be long ere the influence erected by Great West, will in a great measure control the destinies of this republic. A mighty power is rapidly maturing in that quarter—and questions relating to the social developments, the moral habits, the spirit, temper, education, and religious principles of the population, are becoming of no inconsiderable importance to all the inhabitants of this republic.—*Boston Journal.*

"We are disgusted with that kind of dignity which the possessor is himself obliged to guard; but venerate that, which, having its origin in the actual character of the man, can receive no increase from the countenance of power, and suffers no diminution from the approach of weakness—that dignity in which the individual appears to live rather in the consciousness of the light that shines from above, than in that of his own shadow beneath.

A WONDERFUL MAN.—We have now in our community a very respectable retired master of a vessel, now 74 years of age, who has crossed the Atlantic 96 times; visited the West Indies 30 times; never cost the insurance office one dollar; escaped shipwreck and loss of spars; was never so sick as to be deprived of taking the deck; up to this date has escaped headache; his teeth are as good as ever, so much so that he can, as he terms it, eat a musty biscuit; in a word, one would suppose from appearances, the said person might yet remain full of vigor for years to come. What is rare, to this day he receives no credit—he pays all cash; and the most remarkable of all he pays for his newspaper always in advance, and is now what is richly merited—a man universally respected. As the Spauld says, may he live a thousand years.

Baltimore Sun.

"The following beautiful eulogy on 'the law' is extracted from an article in the Southern Literary Messenger.

"The spirit of the law is all equity and justice.—In a government based on true principles the law is the sole sovereign of a nation. It watches over its subjects in their business, in their recreation, and their sleep. It guards their fortunes, their lives, and their honors. In the broad noonday, and the dark midnight it ministers to their security. It accompanies them to the altar and the festal board. It watches over the ship of the merchant, though a thousand leagues intervene; over the seed of the husbandman abandoned for a season to the earth; over the studies of the student, the labors of the mechanic, the opinions of every man. None are high enough to offend it with impunity, none so low that it seems to protect them. It is throned with the King and sits in the seat of the republican Magistrate; but it also hovers over the couch of the lovely, and stands sentinel at the prison, scrupulously preserving to the felon what ever rights he has not forfeited. The light of the law illuminates the palace and the hovel, and surrounds the cradle and the bier. The strength of the law laughs wickedness to scorn, and spurns the intrenchments of iniquity. The power of the law crushes the power of man, and strips wealth of unrighteous immunity. It is the thread of Dardalus to guide us through the labyrinths of cunning. It is the spear of Ithuriel to detect falsehood and deceit. It is the faith of the martyr to shield us from the fires of persecution—it is the good man's reliance—the wicked one's dread—the bulwark of piety—the upholder of morality—the guardian of rights—the distributor of justice—its power is irresistible—its dominion indisputable. It is above us and around us, within us—we cannot fly from its protection—we cannot avert its vengeance.

"Such is the law in its essence; such it should be in its enactments; such, too, it would be, if none aspired to its administration but those with pure hearts, enlarged views, and cultivated minds."

"Church music was first introduced into England in the year 559.