

fore death, which occurred at half past 12, M., on the 14th, he took into his mouth and chewed, but did not swallow, a little gingerbread. About forty or fifty minutes before death, he became generally convulsed; I gave him ether, and he was under its influence when he died. The restlessness continued to the last. Many times he was asked, "Does Freddy feel sick?" the invariable answer, until an hour or two before death, was "No;" but towards the last, he said "Yes." He did not bark or howl like a dog; nor were his movements anything but those natural to him.

In the foregoing, I have purposely been minute; it may be, prolix. Have you, Messrs. Editors, a particle of true sentiment or imagination in your composition? If so, then, while reading this report, you have seen the picture of a domestic circle, some reading, some conversing, and others playing with the little children—*while a rabid dog* was running about among them, perhaps *jumping into a neighboring chair, seeking caresses*, and so on. Then, *can* your reporter be too minute in his description of the symptoms of rabies in this "poodle dog," when there are many hundreds of the breed in the State? The symptoms of rabies in different dogs must differ, as a matter of course; but in all essential particulars, there must be a close resemblance. Some are wild, tearing and noisy in their demonstrations; others are not so, but are affectionate, *gentle*, even, seek the caresses of their masters and those with whom they are acquainted; and during these times they suddenly snap and bite. The reason we have so few authenticated reports concerning rabies, is, that as soon as a dog is supposed to have the disease, he is destroyed. It would be well for the cause of humanity, if every suspicious case, hereafter, could be faithfully examined to the end, and reported.

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*On the Preservation of Leeches.* By J. MILL FRODSHAM, M. D., Physician to the Farringdon Dispensary.

Hospitals and vendors have endeavored to derive advan-

tage from leeches by making them serve several times, and especially by preserving them; yet I believe even now a leech is seldom employed twice, the mode adopted and recommended in all books for cleansing them after they have been used being generally fatal. When I was house surgeon to the County Infirmary, Carlisle, I made numerous experiments to see how often and how long leeches could be employed and preserved without death; for this purpose a small glass vessel was used, in the bottom of which was placed about three inches of peaty earth, and twelve leeches, and then half filled with water, the mouth being secured with a coarse rag. These leeches lived in health for a year with only one or two deaths, many of them being employed twice in one day; but after being used, instead of putting them in salt, or vinegar and water, as usually done, they were placed for a few seconds in the camphor mixture of the Pharmacopœia, and afterwards washed in cold water, avoiding too much contact with the hands. But the apparatus *par excellence* for preserving leeches, is the one introduced by M. Vayson, an eminent French breeder, and called by him the "Domestic Marsh." This consists simply of an earthenware vessel in the form of a truncated cone reversed, the lower extremity of which is pierced with a few holes sufficiently narrow not to allow the leech to pass through. This vessel is filled with turfy earth, the leeches are placed in it, and they soon instal themselves as well as they can; then the orifice is closed with a coarse cloth. If desired to be sent to a great distance, the earth is wetted in all its thickness, and the vessel packed in a basket or box. If desired to preserve them on the same spot, the lower end of the vessel is placed in a tub, the water of which rises to the height of about four inches, and no further care is required. By the process of infiltration the lower strata of the "marsh" are soon wet through, the upper strata remaining dry; between these two extremes the leeches choose the zone most appropriate for them. M. de Quatrefages, by whom the above was brought before the French Academy, has kept and bred leeches in this way for

two years with no deaths. This would lead us to believe that leeches do not live on the blood of animals, but on the infusoria.

The object of this communication is to recall attention to the fact that "*leeches need never be thrown away*"; and that hospitals and vendors may be induced to adopt this simple contrivance of M. Vayson, and thus make further experiments on the keeping and breeding of these very useful little creatures; for, as I have shown, they can be kept healthy and employed many times consecutively, if properly treated.

UPPER BEDFORD PLACE, Russell Square, W. C.

*Druggists' Circular.*

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*Wholesale Prophylactic Treatment of Miasmatic Diseases by the Removal of the Cause—Completely Successful Result.*

By J. T. CALHOUN, M. D., of Rahway, N. J.

It is the popular opinion, that the mission of the physician is merely to heal the sick. We of the profession know that it extends beyond this narrow sphere, and that it is as much our duty to prevent disease as it is to treat it when beyond prevention. The prophylactic treatment is much the more important, and it is with no little satisfaction, as a medical man, that I at this time record, in the annals of the profession, one of the most complete and successful attempts to prevent disease, on record, if, indeed, there is recorded any case where the attempt to prevent miasmatic diseases over a number of square miles of country has been crowned with such complete and positive success.

The city of Rahway, at this time containing some seven thousand inhabitants, is one of the suburban cities which dot the northern part of New Jersey within a radius of from 20 to 40 miles from the great Empire city, and which are, in reality, but suburbs of that great commercial centre. It has but recently donned a corporate garb; but, as a village, it has long been noted for two things: the manufacture of car-