

about swallowing it!); 1 teaspoonful of brandy every 5 minutes." No time limit is fixed, so that the patient in the excess of zeal of his nurse, might easily develop into a strictly alcoholic condition. The diet for a cholera patient is briefly given as—"Rice-water and broth, with isinglass, and 6 drops of laudanum [the spelling is original and phonetic] every 2 hours."

* * *

Further instructions are given that "those confined to bed by exhausting disease should have placed under the hips bags of bran slightly moistened with diluted sulphuric acid."

* * *

If this is a riddle the answer is not clear, but it is perfectly clear that anyone who happens to come across the book will find that this system of "adopting" Trained Nursing to cottage needs is a very misleading one. And it is certainly to be hoped that no cottagers suffering from neuralgia will follow the instructions to dissolve 2 drachms of camphor in an ounce of ether and inhale. Another remedy for neuralgia is given, viz.: the subcutaneous injection of ether. This would appear to be a case of the blind leading the blind into a very dangerous kind of ditch.

* * *

On the occasion of Nurses Thompson and Brewer leaving the Coldstream Cottage Hospital, they were, on Wednesday last, each presented with a handsome purse containing five sovereigns as a token of the respect and esteem in which they are held by their many friends in Coldstream and the surrounding district. The purses had each a suitable inscription.

* * *

THERE is a supposition that Hindoos and many other Eastern nations have the power of dying at will. It would appear that at least one person in Scotland had the secret of the mysterious line between life and death. A well-authenticated case is recently reported of a lady in Glasgow who prepared for death with the utmost calmness and presence of mind. She is described as a spinster of 75, and she engaged a Nurse, who, on being introduced to her patient, who appeared perfectly well, was somewhat astonished to be asked "if she could dress a corpse." She replied in the affirmative, whereupon Miss Robertson, the lady in question, informed her that the dead clothes were laid out on the kitchen table. She gave strict directions that if she died her body must be allowed to remain in the house for a full week, as she had always suffered from a dread of being buried alive. She bade a cheerful "good night" to her Nurse, whom she instructed to enter her bedroom at eight o'clock next morning; on doing so, she found Miss Robertson dead.

Medical Matters.

CHLOROFORM FATALITIES.



DURING the past year there have been an extraordinary number of fatal cases reported from the administration of chloroform; and in fact, rarely a week passes now, without one or more of these unhappy accidents occurring. The curious point is that during the many previous years in which chloroform has been incessantly employed, cases of death from its use have been comparatively rare, and it would appear that all at once a violent epidemic of fatalities has taken place. The cause of the accidents are variously explained, and as a general rule the blame appears to be placed upon the method of administration. Experienced anæsthetists declare that the vapour is often given in too concentrated a form, and too rapidly, so that the blood becomes charged with chloroform before the heart and lungs are enabled to accommodate themselves to the effects. We cannot, however, refrain from suggesting that these accidents may be largely due to the use of some impurity in the chloroform employed; and this is a point to which we have not yet observed that any notice has been directed, although it is well known that when an ordinary drug yields unusual effects the cause is always sought for at once in the composition of the drug itself. At any rate it appears to us that it would be advisable, before blaming either the administrator or the method of administration, to institute rigid inquiries as to the exact composition of the chloroform employed in fatal cases.

BONES IN THE THROAT.

Most people know, by painful personal experience, the difficulty and annoyance caused by fish or other bones becoming impacted in the throat. It is comparatively easy, of course, to remove these if they are within sight, but when, as so often happens, the sticking point occurs low down in the œsophagus, and beyond the reach even of the ingenious snares and forceps which have been invented for the purpose of their removal, considerable pain and even danger may be occasioned, and treatment is often most difficult. A practical suggestion which has recently been made, therefore, for the removal of such obstructions, deserves to be widely known. A pint of milk is given to the sufferer, and some half-an-hour or forty minutes afterwards is followed by an emetic of sulphate of zinc. The fluid, of course,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)