

paration-decried by those who never tried it, they made a slovenly attempt and failed, and then pronounced the process to be absurd. I have known a good medicine, not in general use, to be decried by those who never gave it a fair trial. We all know the history of the ergot, which affords a case in point. What I aim at is, then, to show that a medical man who has made any discovery in pharmacology does not deserve the name of quack in consequence of concealing his discovery; nor if he makes it a proprietary medicine; because if there is any delicacy or peculiar care required in the manipulation, it is probable that but few will take the proper pains with it, whilst many through envy will spoil it, and then pronounce it bad. Emolument is therefore by concealment procured by the meritorious investigator, and the public is more likely to be benefitted by his discovery, and no one is injured. Such individuals should be protected by the public press.

PHARMACOPULUS.

CASE OF HAY FEVER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having noticed in your valuable Journal some remarks by Dr. Elliotson on *hay-fever*, I beg you to accept the account, or as much of it as I remember, of a case which came under my observation some three or four years ago, during my apprenticeship at Paris. A gentleman called, stating he wished to see my master, as he was suffering from a severe attack of the hay-fever. The term was quite new to my ears, and I thought it must either be the result of fancy or the mistaken name of a complaint. When my master saw him, he found symptoms much resembling slight spasmodic asthma, with tolerably easy expectoration, and a great deal of nervous irritability of the system, the patient appearing to be rather a hypochondriacal subject. He stated that he generally had an attack once a year, about the hay-making season, which lasted a fortnight or three weeks, and that the last seizure occurred suddenly whilst he was travelling from Italy. There was no grass to be seen about the immediate spot, but on proceeding a mile farther he found some people mowing, to which circumstance he immediately attributed the attack. He said that he was always better in a neighbourhood where there was little grass, and never had an attack in the winter. During his passage through Normandy, where the land is chiefly meadow, he had been a dreadful sufferer. The medicine prescribed was infusion of valerian, to which, I believe, a little tr. sennæ was added. He

was relieved by this, and continuing to mend on the medicine, at the end of a week stated himself to be quite well. If Dr. Elliotson can glean any instruction from this case, I beg to say he is most welcome to it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
AUGUSTUS PRATER.

SYPHILIS.

COMMUNICATION OF SYPHILIS FROM SECONDARY SYMPTOMS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I should feel obliged by your giving the following case insertion in your valuable journal. It is somewhat analogous to those referred to by Mr. Lawrence, as reported in No. 400 of THE LANCET. It came under my observation about twelve months ago, convincing me of the possibility of a male labouring under secondary venereal symptoms communicating disease to a female.

A gentleman whom I had treated for the chancres, had, about three months after their disappearance, been attacked with venereal sore throat, and about the same period, had slight excoriation on the glans penis. The latter excited not the least uneasiness, as he had frequently been affected in a similar manner before the appearance of any chancres. At this time he cohabited with a female, and to his surprise communicated venereal disease to her. From circumstances he was certain she had had intercourse with no other person, neither could he suppose that an excoriation, which had disappeared in a few days from the use of a nitrate of silver lotion (ten grs. to ℥i. of water), could produce such effects. Such, however, was the case. She not only suffered from sore throat, but likewise a considerable excoriation in the vicinity of the meatus urinarius. Both symptoms yielded to a slight course of blue pill.

From this case it would appear that a person affected with secondary symptoms, may not only communicate a similar disease, but also one partaking somewhat of the nature of the primary disease. At all events, the circumstances, as here narrated, may be faithfully relied on.

RAPID MORTIFICATION OF THE PENIS.

The following case also may be worthy of notice.

May 21, 1830.—Mr. M. complains, that for the last seven days he has suffered exceedingly from a seuse of itching and heat in the course of the urethra, and intolerable pain on voiding urine. Six days ago he observed a sore of what he considered a chancrous appearance on the corona glandis;