

MEDICAL HORRORS.

Disease dwells upon the fair plains and along the bright rivers of earth. Death is reaping with rapid strokes a bountiful harvest; and while our energies are spent in evading, as long as may be, the sweep of his sickle, we look anxiously toward the world of medicine. But alas! every "pathy" becomes a hobby, ridden with zeal by both physician and patient. The "Old School" ridicules the theory of "Bismuth" (like things are cured by like), and grows mirthful and witty at the expense of high dilutions and tiny pellets; while the advocates of infinitesimals turn their anathemas upon bleeding and blisters, calomel and fever fevers. But lo! the "Botic" rider reins up his hobby, all laden with "roots and herbs," and gravely informs the disputants that he possesses a panacea for all the ills that mortals inherit or create. While the people look wondering on to see the "doctors disagree," while the sick man awaits the result with burning brain and bounding pulse; while bells are tolling and graveyards are filling—"Hydropathy" comes near with her well-washed garments, condemning without scruple all the sons of Esculapian, and promising to wash away the physical sins of the multitude. We find in her train an enthusiastic procession of pale-faced, bran-eaters; riding the hobby of "hygiene"; ignoring the meat that was given for food and consuming the husk of the grain and the wayside weeds. They give wise dissertations to prove that our long-lived grandfathers were wrong in their habits of diet, that all the babies of a hundred years ago had their constitutions ruined by bad management. They forget that even the angels ate meat in the tents of Abraham; and as their shivering nerves and disgusted stomachs pass before us, we can but wonder how many of them will live as long as the less abstemious patriarch.—*Western Monthly.*

THE RICHEST BOY IN AMERICA.—The papers are telling about a boy in New-England, now fourteen years of age, who is supposed to be the richest boy in United States, because he has a great deal of money. To our mind, the richest boy in America is the one who is good-hearted, honest, intelligent, ambitious, and willing to do right. He is the one who loves his mother, and always has a kind word for her; who loves his sister or sisters, and tries to help them with true affection. He is the boy who does not call his father "old man," but who loves him and speaks kindly to him, and tries to help him as the signs of old age gather fast upon his brow.

The richest boy is the one who has pluck to fight his destiny and future. He is the one who has the manhood to do right and be honest, and is striving to be somebody; who is above doing a mean action, who would not tell a lie to screen himself, or betray a friend. He whose young mind is full of noble thoughts for the future, who is determined to win a name by good deeds. This is the richest boy in America. Which one of our readers is it?

This boy we like, we would be glad to see, would like to take him by the hand and tell him to go on earnestly, that success might crown his efforts. And if he is a poor boy we should meet him at the threshold, bid him enter, and give him good advice, well and kindly meant. That other rich boy, in New-England, we don't care anything about, for there are fools and snobs enough to worship, flatter and spoil him.

AN article on *flax culture* in a recent number of the *San Jose Patriot* says, "A stiff soil is said to be preferable to a light porous soil. When the soil is dry and porous, the seed should be rolled in. By rolling, the earth is pressed firmly to the seeds, and drought prevented. The land should be prepared as for wheat, care being taken to pulverize the soil well. When a crop of seed is intended to be taken, thin sowing is preferable, in order that the plants may have room to throw out lateral roots, and to obtain air in the blossoming and filling season. But it is a mistake to sow thin when flax is intended to be taken; for the crop then becomes coarse, and often unproductive. From eight to ten pecks per acre is the proper quantity in the last case, but when seed is the object, six pecks will do very well. Thick sown flax runs up in height, and produces the soft flax; if sown thin, it does not rise so high, but spreads more and puts forth many side branches, which produce abundance of seed, and such seed is much better filled, plumper and heavier than the seed produced from thick sown flax. The time for pulling flax is when its stalks begin to turn from a green to a yellow, when its leaves begin to fall, and when its seeds begin to turn brown. The harvest for seed should be later than that for fiber. When the flax is harvested, it either has to be pulled, or cut close to the ground. When dry, it should be put in bundles, and if the seed is to be extracted, it should be threshed in such a way as to leave the straw straight and of full length. If afterward it is intended to break the straw, then run it through the breaker machine, keeping the straw as straight as possible, which will save labor.

One of the latest bits of Paris gossip turns upon the custom of giving a sou to the waiter. The Parisians having inaugurated a revolution against further compliance with this system, a customer at one of the fashionable cafes lately paid his reckoning without adding thereto the ordinary complement. The waiter said nothing, but regarded the customer, who was an old frequenter of the establishment, with a look of remonstrance, tacitly enforcing explanation. "Alphonse," said the customer, kindly, but firmly, "I am very sorry, but I belong to the society for giving nothing to waiters." "Oh, Monsieur, don't say so," cried Alphonse, "you are an old paragon, and in that case I may hint to you that I, and Eugene, and Louis, and all belong to the society for splitting hot coffee over the trousers of stingy customers." The member of the society for giving nothing to waiters immediately presented ten centimes to Alphonse, and went on his way a sadder and a wiser man.

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