the blood. Hence, the quantity of circulating blood in the lungs is diminished in a given space of time, the work of the heart is reduced and the rapidity of the circulation of the blood in the lungs increased.

SUMMARY

The advantages of my method of applying the mustard pack in capillary bronchitis and bronchopneumonia of children are as follows:

1. It is surprisingly rapid in effect.
2. Its light weight does not materially hinder respiratory movement.
3. It can be applied without removing the enfeebled patient from the bed.
4. It is inexpensive.
5. It is clean.

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REMEDY FOR THE PAIN OF INSECT BITES

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The bites of mosquitoes and various gnats, the stings of wasps, bees, etc., have often produced a considerable amount of pain and discomfort and even death has resulted as a consequence of such stings in human beings.

No effective remedy, as far as I am aware, has been recommended for the alleviation of the suffering caused by these insects. The flesh about mosquito-bites if irritated or rubbed very often suppurates and a considerable slough comes away.

For some time past I have used iodine crystals in saponated petrolatum, 30 to 40 grains to an ounce. A few drops of this is rubbed over a mosquito-bite with magical effects. I have also rubbed it over parts stung by wasps of various sorts and sizes. The pain of the sting was very quickly relieved. It seems to me it might be used, in addition to other measures, in cases in which one was bitten by a viper.

Therapeutics

PROPRIETARY PREPARATIONS VERSUS THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPEIA AND NATIONAL FORMULARY PREPARATIONS

The following are criticisms of the exclusive use of the United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary preparations:

1. If physicians were to confine themselves to these preparations, useful new drugs would never become known, and the medical world and its patients would thus be deprived of valuable remedies.
2. Many of the Pharmacopeia and National Formulary preparations are imperfect in their make-up, and are poor imitations of proprietary preparations.
3. Some products must be ordered by proprietary names, and hence consistency is broken in favor of certain firms.

There is no question that there are a few valuable drugs (not mixtures) that have no recognition in the Pharmacopeia and National Formulary. To avoid this omission, once in five, or perhaps better once in three years, there should be issued an addendum to the Pharmacopeia which should contain drugs found valuable by investigations made by the Committee on Revision of the Pharmacopeia. Drugs so recommended would

be considered official and would be incorporated in the next Pharmacopeia. At present the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry is investigating new drugs and putting its honest stamp of approval or disapproval on each. The value of such investigation and such recommendation is inestimable to the practicing physician.

There is no excuse for a large number of products produced by different firms which differ but slightly, if at all, in their chemical action or in molecular constituency. It would be obviously impossible to recognize all these drugs in the Pharmacopeia. Also if a physician tries several drugs or preparations which differ from each other *in name only*, and then, influenced by the ever-varying behavior of the same drugs with different individuals, reports that one preparation is far ahead, in its favorable action, of all the others, it can readily be seen that such medical reports are grossly deceptive, sometimes prejudiced, and often unwittingly absolutely untrue. This is the reason that one physician declares such and such a silver preparation, for instance, to be far better than all others, a second prefers another preparation of silver, and a third still another. Chemical analysis will show that these preparations are practically alike, and careful clinical investigations, *long enough continued*, will show that each of these preparations acts similarly to the others, provided that the dose of the active ingredient is the same. Likewise, the various iodine combinations which are said "to give no symptoms of iodism" are shown by chemical analyses to contain such small amounts of iodine that they could not give undesirable symptoms. In other words, if as small a dose of potassium or sodium iodide should be given as is represented by the amount of iodide in the recommended dose of the proprietary product, the absence of unpleasant symptoms would be the same.

On the other hand, when a physician uses every proprietary preparation or drug that is presented to him he will very soon, *by the variations in clinical experience and results*, unjustly condemn a splendid preparation offered him by one firm and laud a similar but inferior preparation offered him by some other firm. This is manifestly unjust to the pharmaceutical firm that produces the best preparation. The physician in general practice has no way of determining which of these preparations is the best. Consequently there should be some referee to determine this for him, and the Committee on Revision of the Pharmacopeia should be the court of appeal. In the meanwhile the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association is presenting honest reports of the products offered it for investigation.

It is true that many National Formulary preparations, as well as some of the Pharmacopeial preparations, are imperfect, as, for instance, some of the organic iron preparations. If a physician does not think that he can get the results desired from the simple iron preparations, and wishes to order an organic preparation, an honest druggist should furnish him with the best preparation that can be bought. If the best preparation is made by a certain firm, the druggist should buy that preparation of that firm. It should not be necessary for the physician to specify. To put the druggist on his honor, a physician writing for any preparation that is not readily made by the pharmacist himself should write after the preparation "the best," and the druggist so trusted should furnish the best preparation and charge the patient what he must for the best.