ing all these in solution, is the safest form, inasmuch as the alcohol, the solvent, in some measure acts as an antidote."—*British Med. Journ.*, June 9.

9. *Triticum Repens in Irritable Conditions of the Bladder*.—HENRY THOMPSON, Esq., highly extols an infusion of *Triticum repens* in irritable conditions of the bladder. The form he has adopted for administering the remedy is as follows:—

"One ounce of the dried and cut stem is infused in a pint of boiling water for an hour. The liquor removed by straining has been given, unmixed with any other remedy, in quantities varying from twelve ounces to a pint during the twenty-four hours, in several doses. The taste of the infusion is rather agreeable than otherwise; it produces no nausea or derangement of the stomach.

"From notes of the numerous cases in which I have employed it, making at the same time due allowance for the effect of other sources of benefit to the patient, I have arrived at the following conclusions respecting the indications for its use:—

"In vesical irritability produced by inflammation of the prostate and neck of the bladder; in severe gonorrhœa, and especially when the inflammation extends backwards; in the pain and spasm caused by calculus, and by aggravated stricture of the urethra, as well as in some cases of obscure disease of the bladder, the good effects of the infusion have been very marked, and it has proved far more efficacious than the buchu, which may fairly be esteemed the most widely applicable and generally useful of our officinal remedies of this class in such circumstances. In cases of prostatic enlargement in elderly patients it has been of service, but less frequently than in the conditions above named. It has also afforded great relief in renal calculus. A medical man practising in London, who has thus suffered, and very severely, during many years, tells me that 'after trying every approved remedy, it is the only thing that has rendered life endurable.' This is one of four similar cases in which it has been more or less useful.

"In short, wherever micturition is very frequent or painful, depending on hyper-sensibility of any part of the urinary passages from acute or subacute inflammation, with signs of its presence in the urine itself, the symptoms are mostly materially relieved, and the urine becomes clearer. If improvement is produced at all, it is generally very soon after commencing the medicine, and if none can be observed in four or five days, it is not worth continuing to employ it.

"I believe it is important that the plant should be gathered in the spring shortly before the leaves appear; the stem is then to be slowly dried without artificial heat, and cut into short lengths for use. The infusion obtained from material so treated is superior to that made from plants gathered indiscriminately at any time, and, also, to the infusion made from the *Triticum repens* which is imported by the herbalists for the purposes of French pharmacy in this country."

10. *The Uses of Phenic Acid*.—A paper was read at the meeting of the Academy of Sciences, on March 4th, by M. LEMAIRE, who ascribed extraordinary properties to this acid, which is one of the results of the volatile distillation of coal-tar. He stated that anatomical specimens and entire animals might be preserved, in a fresh condition, in vessels smeared over on the inner surface with phenic acid, provided that the vessels are hermetically sealed so as to prevent the removal of the air contained in them. The bodies of animals injected with phenic acid, dissolved in water, may be kept without any alteration by the contact of atmospheric air. In this manner, the body of a man might be preserved at a very trifling expense. An aqueous solution, containing one part of phenic acid and forty parts of acetic acid in a hundred, will, according to M. Lemaire, cure tinea in thirty or forty days, and scabies almost immediately. In the treatment of tinea, a compress soaked in this preparation should be applied once daily. In scabies, a single application will suffice for the destruction of the parasites which keep up the affection. The acetic acid is added to the solution for the purpose of enabling it to penetrate beneath the epidermis down to the roots of the hair.—*British Medical Journal*, August 10, 1861.