Calcium Salts as Stimulants in Pneumonia and Cardiac Conditions.—

LAUDER BRUNTON (*Brit. Med. Jour.*, 1907, 1, 616) has prescribed these agents in pneumonia and in heart weakness of other types, and considers that the results obtained justify their further employment in threatened cardiac failure. In pneumonia he prefers to prescribe calcium chloride on account of its quick action. The dosage is from 6 to 10 grains dissolved in water, to which $\frac{1}{10}$ grain of saccharin to every 10 grains of the calcium salt has been added in order to disguise the taste. Such a dose may be given every four hours; it does not interfere with other medication which the patient may be taking. In cardiac conditions, in which a less rapid action is desired, he prefers calcium lacto- or glycerophosphate.

Creosote Carbonate in the Pneumonias of Children.—A. FLETCHER

(*Canada Lancet*, 1907, xl, 497) considers that the ordinary death rate from the pneumonias of childhood (25 per cent.) may be reduced to 5 per cent. by the administration of this drug, and that we owe it to ourselves and our patients to give the agent a continued and accurate trial. The method of the action of creosote carbonate is not thoroughly understood, but Fletcher thinks that it may be carried into the blood stream unchanged and is conveyed to the cells of the lungs to be excreted. The breath is soon laden with its odor and the skin also is concerned in its elimination. If this is true it is easy to understand the benefit the drug confers for it is brought into direct contact with the tissues in which the pneumococcus is developing. The dose for a newborn infant is 1 minim per hour; for an adult, 7 to 15 minims every two, three, or four hours. No gastric disturbance is likely to follow its exhibition, and it may be given dropped on lump sugar.

Intratracheal Treatment in Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—MENDEL (*Revue*

thérap., 1907, lxxiv, 5) is very enthusiastic regarding the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis by means of intratracheal injections of from 1 to 10 per cent. gomenol or eucalyptol in oil. Under this treatment, all the symptoms become ameliorated and the patient gains weight and strength. The method is applicable to patients afflicted with the chronic type of the affection as well as to those in the so-called pretuberculous stage. Of 200 patients in all stages of the disease, selected at random and treated by this method, Mendel reports 47 per cent. of apparent cures with return to active life; 33 per cent. of improvement, also with return to ordinary avocations, and 20 per cent. of failures; the last were individuals in the later stages of the disease. Usually the treatment must be continued for a considerable period of time.

The Comparative Antiseptic Power of Salicylic Acid and its Salts.—H. C.

WOOD, JR. (*Univ. Penna. Med. Bull.*, 1907, xix, 312) concludes from a series of bacteriological experiments that the neutralization of salicylic acid, which itself is a very active germicide, by sodium or strontium greatly diminishes its bactericidal powers. This diminution is far in excess of the reduction in the amount of salicyl radical represented in the alkaline salts. It would seem that the antiseptics of the aromatic series are much more active in acid solutions. It has been shown also that the neutralization of benzoic acid gives the same results as that