

portion to age or size. Medicated suppositories are very useful in hemorrhoids, spermatorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea, and also for introducing general medication without irritating the stomach. Hollow suppositories, with cavities to contain medicines, are an abomination.

#### CATAPLASMA KAOLINI.

Kataplasma kaolini is composed of finely powdered white kaolin, or clay, compounded with glycerin, antiseptics and volatile oils.

It is composed of glycerin, kaolin, boric acid, thymol oil of gaultheria and oil of peppermint, compounded by a process requiring considerable pharmaceutical skill.

At present several manufacturing pharmacists are making satisfactory substitutes under various names.

The uses to which emplastrum kaolini are put are very numerous. Many physicians swathe the chests of their patients in it as soon as a diagnosis of pneumonia is made. It is applied to sprains, bruises, threatened boils, sore throats, enlarged glands and its usefulness, according to some, is almost unlimited so far as external applications of a soothing or remedial character are concerned. There can be no doubt that it is frequently used when the patient would do better without it. Sometimes it supplants needed and more effectual measures. Sometimes its weight is an added burden to an already embarrassed respiration.

In applying it two rules should be observed, namely, it should always be warmed to more than the temperature of the body before it is spread, for afterwards it is difficult to warm it all over alike. Second, the coating on the cloth should

never be less than one-eighth of an inch in thickness, or, speaking crudely, as thick as a silver dollar. Cataplasma kaolini is not a suitable application for surfaces from which the epithelium is absent, or where it is greatly irritated. It is slightly irritating itself, and would cause disagreeable burning sensations.

It is to affect the condition of tissues beneath the skin that it is properly used.

The peculiar power of glycerin to draw moisture, probably serum, from the tissues, is supposed to be the basis of the undeniable effect of emplastrum kaolini. After it has been in contact with the skin for a few hours it can be removed from the contact entire and without sticking. Its physical appearance and character is entirely changed by what it has drawn from the skin.

Glycerin destroys the life of germs by abstracting their watery elements. It is therefore used as a diluent and preservative of vaccine virus, but finally destroys the power of it, rendering it necessary for the manufacturers of vaccine to exchange old tubes for new at frequent intervals. Cotton tampons saturated with glycerin, either plain or medicated, and applied to the cervix uteri, cause a drain of serum from its tissues. Use is made of this power to accomplish desirable results. The same property causes a flow of serum in the rectum when glycerin is injected or applied in suppositories. The stimulation resulting induces free action of the bowels. Infants suffering from constipation may be relieved by small suppositories of a pure glycerin soap. It is a useful vehicle for other drugs, especially those liable to fermentation, which it prevents.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

#### Gunshot Injuries.

By Colonel Louis A. LaGrande, U. S. Army Medical Corps (Retired). Lieutenant-Commander and Professor of Military Surgery U. S. Army Medical School, and Professor of Military Surgery, Medical Department, N. Y. University. 390 pages; 160 illustrations. Published by Wm.

Wood & Co., New York, 1914. Cloth, \$4.00 net.

This is an exhaustive treatise of the subject from many points of view. The author considers the various projectiles and the forces used to propel them from different arms and then the wounds produced in the different parts of the body. It is an unusually valuable addition to the literature and its appearance is timely.