able sensations from the application of menthol as to prefer not to repeat the experience.

In acute tonsillitis, Dr. Baratoux did not obtain the good results which Dr. Rosenberg had reported, and the smarting caused by menthol was so considerable as to counterbalance any good effect.

In the nasal passages the action of menthol is less disagreeable, especially if rapid expirations are practised; the smarting is less intense, and the sensation of coolness more agreeable; the respiration becomes easier, and the swelling of the turbinated mucosa lessens. On the conjunctiva menthol has a very irritant action, and although it induces a decided anæsthesia, the effect of cocaine is both more pleasant and thorough.

Baratoux has also employed the solutions of menthol in alcohol, and petrobaseline, in the treatment of polypi of the nose and ear. As respects the ear, the pain produced by the application was great, and no diminution of sensibility resulted; but in the case of extraction of nasal polypi there was an obvious lessening of the sensibility.

Dr. Baratoux concludes that the menthol solutions are more effective in inducing anæsthesia of the nasal passages, especially when the patient rapidly inspires and expires; that they may be employed in some cases with advantage; but that they do not equal cocaine either in respect to the diminution of sensibility or the relief of local congestion.

The chief motive of Dr. Rosenberg appears to have been to find in menthol a cheaper local anæsthetic than cocaine, but since the decline in the price of the latter there is less necessity for obtaining substitutes.

It appears, further, that coca grows in such abundance, and can be cultivated with so much facility, that the needs of the world will be readily supplied in the future.

MENTHOL AND CHLORAL CONES.

M. MAYER, in a recent communication to the Paris Therapeutical Society (*Revue de Thérapeutique*, October, 1885), says he has found a mixture of oil of peppermint and ether a good local application for the relief of superficial pains. He proposes, also, the following cones for topical use:

Chloral	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	gr. 0.50
Menthol	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	" 0.50
Cocoa-butter	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	" 1
Spermaceti	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	" 2

These are held by a compress against the painful part.

BISMUTH AS AN ANTISEPTIC.

Bismuth as an antiseptic dressing for wounds, and for gastrointestinal disorder due to the action of minute organisms, and in the course of which ptomaines are produced, is attracting considerable attention. In an elaborate paper, entitled "*Untersuchungen über die toxischen und therapeutischen Wirkungen des Wismuths*," which appears in the *Archiv für experimentelle Pathologie und Pharmacologie*, for October, 1885, DR. WLADIMIR STEINFELD gives a complete account of the actions and uses of bismuth. He precedes