

Analytical Records.

GETTLI'S SWISS MILK FOOD.

THE number of new foods for infants and convalescents is steadily on the increase. Gettli's Swiss Milk Food is one of the latest candidates for public favour. It is made at Montreaux in Switzerland from malted wheat and condensed milk. It is well known in France and Germany, and is likely to become a favourite in this country. The directions for use are simple, and it can be prepared with very little trouble. For a child six months old a tablespoonful is mixed with ten tablespoonfuls of water, and then boiled for five or six minutes. It has a sweet agreeable taste, and children take it without difficulty.

KANOLDT'S TAMARIND LOZENGES.

The tamarind lozenges made by Mr. C. Kanoldt of Gotha from the fruit of the tamarind tree constitute a welcome addition to our list of laxatives, and afford a ready mode of administering an aperient to children. They are nice to take, and look more like sweetmeats than a medicine. They act quickly and with certainty, and without producing pain or griping. For an adult one or more may be taken daily, whilst for a child a half or even a quarter of a lozenge will suffice.

MURRAY AND LANMAN'S FLORIDA WATER.

This is an excellent preparation. It is a simple floral extract, and has a most delicate and refreshing perfume. It has been in use for over thirty years in America, and in tropical climates is largely employed as an addition to the bath, and for sprinkling about the room to cool the heated atmosphere. It will be found valuable in the sick chamber, and may be used with advantage in the form of spray. Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome, and Co. are the European agents.

MACKEY'S QUINQUININE.

In consequence of the high price of quinine, Messrs. Mackey, Mackey, and Co. have recently introduced, under the name of quinquinine, a combination of the cinchona alkaloids, which they hope will in time supersede some of the more expensive preparations now employed in hospital practice. In general appearance quinquinine is hardly distinguishable from quinine, and it readily dissolves in dilute acids, forming a clear solution. It possesses anti-periodic properties, and in the treatment of ague and some forms of neuralgia has been found almost equal to quinine.

MACKEY'S MISTURA BISMUTHI CO.

This is a preparation of bismuth, chloroform, hydrocyanic acid, nux vomica, morphia, and other drugs. It is somewhat difficult to imagine a case in which such a combination would be required, but it is said to be of use in dyspepsia, pyrosis, infantile diarrhoea, gastric irritability, and other allied conditions. It is of a bright red colour, and mixes readily with water, forming a clear fluid.

MACKEY'S EPULIXON.

Epulixon is a dark fluid having a persistent and, it must be confessed, anything but an agreeable odour. On the addition of water it becomes milky, and may be used as a disinfectant or as a lotion or injection, and also as an antiseptic dressing for wounds attended with offensive discharges. It is said to be particularly obnoxious to pediculi, and has been used with success in the treatment of eczema, psoriasis, and other chronic skin diseases.

MARTINDALE'S ANTIDOTE BAG.

The antidote bag attracted considerable attention at the recent International Medical and Sanitary Exhibition, and, although it failed to secure an award, it was undoubtedly

one of the greatest novelties shown. It contains in a compact form all that would be required in a case of poisoning. In addition to the stomach-pump and enema apparatus there is a collection of emetics, stimulants, and antidotes, including half a dozen solutions for hypodermic use. Each bottle is distinctly labeled with dose and directions for use, so that it can be seen at a glance what to do in cases of poisoning.

A NEW TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN FORMS OF NEURASTHENIA SPINALIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Some months ago you were good enough to publish a paper in which I introduced to the notice of the profession in England the results obtained, so far as I had then obtained any results, in the course of a long-pending inquiry with respect to nerve-vibration, and the treatment of pain in certain neuralgic states by mechanical vibration. It may be remembered that I announced the conclusions at which I had arrived quite tentatively and under protest, in consequence of a claim to the discovery made by M. Boudet de Paris, in one of the French journals. I am not yet able to say that pain is relieved by any mechanical vibration which I have been able to apply, although the frequency of the *post hoc* in a considerable number of cases leads me to think it will hereafter prove to be *propter hoc*.

Meanwhile, I have lighted on a new, and seemingly successful, mode of treating certain forms of neurasthenia spinalis, and, at the risk of being charged with precipitation, I feel bound to place the facts on record. They are briefly these. Persons who travel much by railway and suffer from what has been termed the "railway spine," which is neurasthenic, though neurosthenic, and others who are affected with spinal debility, the result of exhaustion from any of a variety of causes—ranging from mechanical shock to sexual excess—and who may be supposed to be the subjects of a loss of tone or elasticity in the fibres of the spinal cord, are not only relieved of their strangely diverse symptoms, but—as it would seem—permanently benefited by the propagation of lateral or transverse vibrations through the spinal column by the application of my percuteur to the ridge of the spinous processes. My method is to pass the percuteur slowly up and down the spine for ten minutes, or, if no disagreeable sensations are produced, a quarter of an hour, daily, or every second day. I believe the *modus operandi* of the treatment is to counteract the tendency to a lax and flaccid condition of the cord by exciting it to vibrate in a direction *at right angles* to its axis; most of the vibrations which act injuriously on the cord being propagated *in the line* of its axis. For the present I will simply make this statement, but I shall be glad to explain the matter more fully to anyone who may be interested.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

J. MORTIMER GRANVILLE.

18, Welbeck-street, Oct. 10th, 1881.

ANTISEPTIC SILK IN OPHTHALMIC AND AURAL CASES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am glad to see, from your issue of the 8th inst., that Mr. W. H. Brown advocates the use of antiseptic silk in general surgery. My friend Mr. McGill brought it under my notice shortly after he had invented it, and I have since employed it with benefit in ophthalmic and aural cases, and believe it to be of value.

Silk waste, teased out, and either antiseptic or not, forms a capital pad to be used with the compressive bandage; and the salicylic silk is of admirable service also in cases with copious discharge. In ear cases it makes a good substitute for cotton-wool, and I have frequently prescribed it as such, to the comfort of the patients. Its antiseptic properties are of value also in aural discharges.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

SIMEON SNELL,

Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Sheffield General Infirmary.
October 10th, 1881.