

2. In the great majority of cases it very rapidly lessens the discharge. 3. The gonococci disappear after a short period. 4. This disappearance is not in all cases permanent; there is in quite a large proportion of cases a tendency to relapse with reappearance of the gonococci. 5. It possesses a distinct value as a hand-injection in the stationary period of the disease, but is of very little benefit in the mucous stage or stage of decline. 6. It produces no results in the treatment of chronic anterior urethritis.—*Therapeutic Gazette*, 1897, No. 7, p. 447.

Plant-dialysates.—DR. A. JAQUET collects green plants in good weather, contuses and places them in the apparatus for fourteen days, first with water and next with diluted alcohol. Chemical analysis shows that the dialysate contains a definite percentage of the active principles of the plants. He has tested two specimens of helladonna and aconite and one each of veratrum, digitalis, and adonis, by physiological methods, and finds them advantageous for accurate dosage.—*Correspondenz-Blatt für Schweizer Aerzte*, 1897, No. 11, S. 326.

Formaldehyde Gas.—DR. H. C. WOOD states that the chief interest in this drug centres in its powers as a germicide and disinfectant. As a gas it will penetrate not only animal tissues, but almost all organic substances, so that hooks infected with various pathogenetic germs could be disinfected by being shot up for fifteen minutes in an atmosphere containing the vapor of commercial formalin (40 per cent. aqueous solution of formaldehyde), one part to three hundred of air. The method of Trillat is the preferable one, and consists in the use of the formaldehyde directly after its production by the passage of the vapors of methylic alcohol over red-hot metal. Kroyono has shown that one of the ordinary fabrics are injured by the gas, which is capable of completely disinfecting curtains, carpets, clothing, bed-covering, and the minor forms of furniture, although it is doubtful whether heavy upholstered furniture, such as sofas and mattresses, can, in their interior, be thoroughly disinfected. The gas is so irritating that one can remain in the room during the disinfection, but the lamp employed is automatic and can be left to itself. It can also be used for the removal of foul odors; $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent. solution is sufficient for cleansing vessels in the anatomical laboratory. If the hands be washed with it and afterward with alcohol, they are rendered completely antiseptic, but are not stained or irritated. It does not affect instruments, and it is efficient in preparing catgut and surgical dressings. For the cleansing of an infected wound a 2 per cent. solution is used, but for a continuous local application or free irrigation, one-fourth of 1 per cent. is sufficient.—*University Medical Magazine*, 1897, No. 9, p. 605.

Trihomophenol Bismuth.—DR. HUGO FINK prefers this antiseptic and desiccant to iodoform for all purposes for which he formerly used the latter drug. There are no unpleasant after-symptoms, as eczema or dermatitis, the discharges lose their odor and lessen in quantity, and wounds heal rapidly with a flexible cicatrix. There is no odor, nor do exuberant granulations form.—*Wiener klinischer Rundschau*, 1897, No. 20, S. 331.

MEDICINE.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

WILLIAM OSLER, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE IN THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND;

AND

GEORGE DOCK, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

Acute Yellow Atrophy of the Liver, with Changes in the Spinal Cord.
—Much interest attaches to changes in the cord in diseases depending upon a general intoxication. GOLDSCHIEDER and MONTER (*Fortschritte der Medizin*, 1897, No. 14) report the following: Female, aged eighteen years. Syphilitic lesion three months ago. Entered the hospital on account of increasing weakness and drowsiness. The patient was of small size, icteric, liver increased and very tender. Later the liver became smaller in size, then jaundice became very intense, and at the end of three months the patient died in coma. At the autopsy there were small hemorrhages in the peritoneum, the spleen was enlarged, the kidneys swollen, the liver weighed 840 grammes. The dura was stained yellow; arachnoids reddened. Microscopically, marked interstitial increase in the liver; the parenchyma in part gone. Complete fatty degeneration of the kidneys. Throughout the entire length of the cord the neuroglia elements, especially about the vessels, were increased in size, but not in number. The parenchyma showed occasional diffusely distributed swollen axis-cylinders and localized patches of degeneration, especially marked in the cervical region. No change in the anterior or posterior roots. The vessels were intact. It is to be noted that the parenchyma changes were limited to the terminal parts of the end arteries, and that the glia changes were qualitative and not quantitative, as shown by the lack of any increase in the number of nuclei. These changes, the author thinks, are toxic. They correspond very nearly to those found in fatal anæmias. In some of the areas shown to be degenerate by the bright yellow color given by the potassium bichromate no microscopical changes could be found. This is explained by saying that in their earlier stages the changes were only chemical, and were brought out by the reagent. This case shows that in acute yellow atrophy the cord may show changes which seem to be, like the atrophy of the liver, the result of the severe general intoxication. The precise nature of the poison remains in doubt, but the changes in this case were unquestionably due in some way to the syphilis.

The Narrow Aorta.—SUTER (*Archiv für Experimentelle Pathologie und Pharmacologie*, vol. xxxix. Nos. 3 and 4) has undertaken the measurements of the aorta in a large number of cases, with a view of determining if any relation exists between the narrow aorta and certain forms of anæmia in which there are subjective symptoms without blood-changes. While he