

CARBOLIZED OIL EXTERNALLY.

DR. TRESILIAN has advised the use of carbolized oil in scabies (1 part carbolic acid to 15 parts olive oil). He asserts that it removes itching instantly without producing inflammation of the skin.

Even if it were possible to relieve the pain or to produce cure, Dr. Israel would still oppose its use on account of the possibility of general carbolic poisoning.

At the end of the year 1860, when the poisonous effects of this remedy were not sufficiently well known, it was much employed as an ointment in skin diseases. Different authorities reported cases of toxic symptoms, such as dizziness, dyspnoea, nausea, loss of consciousness, several minutes after its use; even death has occurred. The following cases will illustrate: Machin, in 1868, has reported two cases in which, after anointing the body with warm carbolic acid, death occurred in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours in a woman of sixty years, and in 60 hours in a girl twenty-one years old.

In recent times Lubrecht reported a case of a man, twenty-one years old, with scabies, who was rubbed with a solution of one ounce of carbolic acid in ten ounces of water. Five minutes after its use dizziness, pallor, and death occurred after two gasping respirations.

Finally, Koehler has seen death occur in a young man after previous symptoms of poisoning, for whom was prescribed the fifth part of a solution of 1 : 8. In the last case Hoppe-Seyler found carbolic acid in the blood. These cases are sufficient to show the rapid absorption and poisonous action of carbolic acid even in external applications. On this account one should avoid using carbolic acid in such a disease when there are other better and safer remedies in the field.—*Therapeutische Monatshefte*, Heft 9, 1890.

MEDICINE

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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THE RECOGNITION OF THE GONOCOCCUS.

STEINSCHNEIDER (*Centralbl. f. d. med. Wissensch.*, 1890, No. 39, 710) maintains, in opposition to a statement of Fürbringer's, that the application of the Gram method of staining microorganisms is necessary to the satisfactory study of the gonococcus, inasmuch as the only positive characteristic of this coccus is that it is not stained by this method, while nearly all other diplococci found in the urethra are colored thereby.

These conclusions, which agree with those of Roux, are the result of the examination of eighty-six patients with acute and chronic gonorrhœa. The