

alibongb hut slightly in distilled water, which takes up only 1.3 per cent. With the addition of a small quantity of alcohol a 2 per cent. solution can be obtained. It coagulates albumin, as does phenol, but not completely. According to Karpow, in 2 per cent. solution it is a little less energetic than corrosive sublimate one *per mille* against the spores of anthrax, but is incomparably more active than 5 per cent. solutions of phenol or cresol. It is much less poisonous than the substances above mentioned. The urine of the animals used for experiment, even exposed to the air, remained for a month without odor or any sign of putrefaction, the coloration only becoming more pronounced. From the experience of this antiseptic in about two hundred operations the following conclusions are reached: In from 1 to 2 per cent. solutions it is the most energetic antiseptic which organic chemistry furnishes; it is of definite chemical combination, and in solution is colorless, or almost so, and its odor is less disagreeable than other phenol or cresol derivatives; it can be used for the disinfection of the hands and instruments as well as the usual antiseptics.—*Revue Médicale de la Suisse Romande*, 1895, No. 7, 365.

COCAINE-ANÆSTHESIA.

M. ANDRÉ LAPOINTE states that safety demands that local anæsthesia by means of this drug should be produced only when the following rules are observed: 1. Only fresh 1 per cent. solutions prepared aseptically should be used. 2. A sterilized syringe of 15 minims capacity is used. 3. The maximum dose of the alkaloid is $2\frac{1}{2}$ grains. 4. The patient should be operated upon in the recumbent position. 5. The operation should be commenced not less than five minutes after the last subcutaneous injection. 6. If there is need, the anæsthesia should be made upon several superimposed planes. [This refers to deep-seated abscesses, tumors, and ligations.] The vaso-constrictor power of the drug well explains the cerebral anæmia and syncope which are encountered in cases of poisoning.—*La Presse Médicale*, 1895, No. 35, p. 273.

STATIC ELECTRICITY.

DR. JULIUS ALTHAUS believes that this form of electricity has again found favor, and is a very useful addition to the electric instrumentarium. The modern machines yield a plentiful supply of electricity independently of the weather. It is chiefly used as a dry bath, the patient being charged while on an insulating-stool; at the Salpêtrière with positive electricity several hours a day. It may be also applied by drawing sparks from round conductors; as the electric wind, or breeze, or donche, when a pointed conductor is approached to those which are intended to be acted upon; or a metallic cap, connected with a conductor, is held at a certain distance from the head. A discharge intermediate between the wind and spark is produced by the so-called "electric cigarette" when a blunt metallic point or piece of wood is approached to the patient's body. This is particularly useful when a sensitive part is to be acted upon or as preparatory to stronger treatment of timid patients. A "static current" has been employed by passing an uninsulated ball rapidly over the clothing of the patient. These different methods can produce a mixture of stimulant and sedative effects

upon the system, which may be utilized in the treatment of certain neuroses, as hysteria, hysterolepsy, insomnia, and obstinate forms of neuralgia and spasm. Morton has used the "static current" in locomotor ataxia and other degenerations of the spinal cord with apparent benefit. As ozone or electrified oxygen is developed during the action of the Franklin machine, the patient may be made to inhale it by holding an insulated disk with a number of points at some distance from his mouth. This proceeding has been found to be useful in certain forms of anæmia and spasmodic asthma.—*Medical Press and Circular*, 1895, No. 2924, p. 533.

ACUTE AND CHRONIC COPPER-POISONING.

HERR WILHELM FILEHNE notes the many opportunities for the ingestion of this metal, which gives rise to chronic poisoning. In guinea-pigs there were observed loss of body-weight, particularly anæmia of all tissues and organs, swollen spleen, small and fatty liver, anæmic kidneys, pale gastric mucous membrane, the intestine, beyond pallor and possibly some swelling of the plaques, normal; in doses which do not give rise to emesis, copper in the combination with potassium tartrate may be dangerous to health, and, as this double salt may contaminate wines, this communication becomes important. In 1889 Dauscher reported a case of poisoning from this source in which the symptoms were gastric pain, fainting, tenesmus, muscular twitching, and, later, jaundice; the last two symptoms being especially significant of the cause of the poisoning. Further observations are necessary to determine the amount of the metal which will give rise to poisonous symptoms.—*Deutsche medicinische Wochenschrift*, 1895, No. 19, S. 297.

ETHER-ANÆSTHESIA.

M. CHAPUT states that (1) it is less dangerous than chloroform; deaths from the former 1 in 13,000, from the latter 1 in 2000. (2) It can be produced in from four to six minutes, therefore being more rapid. (3) It is very easy, and thus can be intrusted to a very ignorant person. On the contrary, a good chloroformist is very rare. (4) It strengthens the heart-beat and does not conduce to shock. (5) It has less effect upon the kidneys than does chloroform. (6) It causes vomiting only exceptionally. (7) The patients awake easily and quickly and are much less depressed. Ether is contra-indicated in acute or chronic affections of the respiratory apparatus, in operations upon the face or in those which necessitate tracheotomy, and in cerebral surgery. The mask of Wanschel is preferred to that of Julliard in that it is smaller and less cumbersome, allows inspection of the face and eyes, and easily graduates the amount of air.—*Journal des Praticiens*, 1895, No. 19, p. 299.

M. PONCET has used ether during twenty-five years in from twenty-three to twenty-five thousand cases with but a single death; a child who suffered from a cardiac lesion. The immediate accident with ether-narcosis is suffocation, but it is one which is amenable to treatment either by artificial respiration or tracheotomy; the last he has resorted to with success four times. The contraindications are early and old age, both for the same reason—the