

PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

THERAPEUTICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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ACUTE GONORRHOEAL RHEUMATISM.

DR. HOWARD LILIENFELD has a preference for oil of wintergreen and sodium bicarbonate, with considerable attention to the alkalies, in the treatment of this disease. The diseased joint should at once be put at rest upon a splint of such proportions that as much comfort as possible may be obtained. Gentle compression over a dressing of ichthyol ointment twenty to fifty per cent., or over mercurial ointment, or over an ordinary wet dressing, should be applied by bandage. If the disease seems to be manageable, gentle massage is valuable during convalescence; but if ankylosis is inevitable, it should be assisted by perfect fixation in plaster-of-Paris. The indication is for forced feeding: meat, eggs, milk and its preparations, besides other simple and easily digested food, should be forced upon the patient every two hours or oftener, and accurate record should be kept of all nourishment taken.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, 1895, vol. cxxxii. p. 75.

NOTES ON THE NEWER REMEDIES.

DR. DAVID CERNA, in the second edition of his book of two hundred and fifty pages, presents an alphabetically arranged *résumé* of current literature concerning the newer acquisitions to materia medica. Although many of the drugs which are described in this work are already familiar to the readers of this department of THE JOURNAL and others are pharmacopœial and therefore are sufficiently well treated of in the text-books upon therapeutics, yet this volume is useful because one will find therein, in convenient form, many facts which would necessitate the search of a considerable portion of medical literature. While, in general, careful discrimination has been used to include only those remedies which have already proved their usefulness or give fair prospects of possessing valuable properties, it is quite likely that many will

be shown to be unsuccessful candidates for professional favor. The author is usually accurate, although in a book which is chiefly a compilation errors are liable to creep in. We would instance as none the dose of creosote carbonate (p. 80), and in this case the doses in the two systems do not agree. The book is convenient for reference, and is likely to be acceptable to the practising physician.

ARISTOL.

DR. HEUSE recommends the use of this remedy in powder-form for indolent corneal ulcerations with suppurating base. It is thickly applied with a brush and the eye kept closed for a little time. In two days the base of the ulcer becomes clean. In a five per cent. ointment it is useful in ulcerative blepharitis, being preferable to the ointment of yellow precipitate on account of its causing less irritation. This ointment has given good results in obstinate, recurring hordeola when rubbed into the edges of the lids at night.—*Therapeutische Monatshefte*, 1895, Heft 2, S. 85.

SALOL IN NON-PARASITIC SYCOSIS.

DR. J. ABBOTT CANTRELL reports three cases, certainly with curative effect in one, the others only benefited for a time. Twenty to forty grains to the ounce of petrolatum were employed.—*Therapeutic Gazette*, 1895, No. 2, p. 80.

PETROLATUM MOLLE.

MR. LYMAN F. KEBLER has examined nine samples, applying the tests of the *U. S. Pharmacopæia*. All but one was of a higher melting-point, four became opaque with sulphuric acid, one possessed a decided taste and odor. Contrary to what has recently been claimed, that this article is highly adulterated with fatty substances of both animal and vegetable origin, no chestnut-brown coloration was detected on treating with potassium permanganate, nor was any saponifiable matter found.—*American Journal of Pharmacy*, 1895, No. 3, p. 142.

[Although the common adulterations were not found, yet it should be noted that but one of the specimens, and that one not entirely, conformed to the official requirements.—R. W. W.]

POISONING BY NUTMEGS.

MR. T. G. SIMPSON reports that a strong, healthy woman, twenty-six years of age, being a week over her menstrual period, took two nutmegs, bruised, in a small quantity of gin. She was found lying upon the bed in a drowsy condition and very delirious, the delirium taking the form of confusion and mistaking one person for another. There were fairly lucid intervals. She complained of a sensation of great tightness across the chest, of vertigo, and faintness on attempting to stand. She had vomited several times. The pulse was 75 and rather feeble, as was also the heart's action. The pupils were normal. She was kept in bed, and strong coffee with a dessertspoonful

of brandy given every half-hour. A mixture of potassium bromide, ammonium carbonate, spirit of cayenne, and chloroform-water every four hours was prescribed. Convalescence was established on the second day following, but the nutmegs had no effect whatever in producing a miscarriage.—*The Lancet*, 1895, No. 3725, p. 150.

ASAPROL IN PEDIATRICS.

DR. MONCORVO has found that in healthy infants this drug does not have any appreciable influence upon temperature, pulse, or respiration. No complaints have been made of its taste, nor has it given rise to any diarrhoea, cerebral manifestations, vertigo, or noises in the ears. In two cases, of small infants of very nervous temperament, it gave rise to an erythema, situated upon the body, and which disappeared two days after the discontinuance of the drug. It possesses analgesic properties. In many cases it increases the quantity of urine, notably in cases of malarial fever. If albuminuria exists, it does not seem to increase the amount in the urine. A property which has not been hitherto ascribed to the drug is that of checking hemorrhage, of which seven instances are cited. The remedy is given in from four to forty-five grains in the twenty-four hours, in sweetened water, to which is added syrup of tolu, gooseberries, or canella. For lotions or irrigations it is dissolved in water (1 to 5 to 100). For applications to the skin, nasal or pharyngeal mucous membrane it can be used with vaseline, to which may be added lanolin. In malarial fever this remedy is without doubt efficacious, lowering the temperature and modifying more or less rapidly the type of the fever. It lessens the malaise, nervousness, and insomnia, and the hepatic or splenic congestion. It sometimes gives rise to a profuse perspiration, but less than that excited by such drugs as antipyrin. In acute tuberculosis it seems incapable of efficiently acting as an antipyretic. In broncho-pneumonia the cases were too few for the expression of a decided opinion. In whooping-cough, when used as a application (1 to 100 of water) several times daily to the region about the glottis, relief almost without exception followed. As a topical application in cutaneous maladies and in diseases of the ear, nasal fossæ, throat, and valvo-vaginitis it is as useful an antiseptic as it is in the intestine. The morbid secretions stop, they become devoid of odor, and healing takes place.—*Bulletin Général de Thérapeutique*, 1895, 10e liv., p. 194; 12, p. 256; 14, p. 308; 16, p. 356.

THE TREATMENT OF URIC-ACID GRAVEL.

DR. VAUGHAN HARLEY states that the treatment takes two directions, according as we desire to increase the solubility or decrease the amount of uric acid formed. In the majority of cases uric acid deposits are due to an increased tendency to precipitation, and not to excessive formation. In cases due to an increased tendency to precipitation drugs which help to hold uric acid in solution should be given. Piperazin has been found to be of service in those cases in which gravel has been due to diminished solvents and not to excessive formation, but it has no action whatever on the quantity of uric acid daily formed in the organism. In such cases it should be given with alkalis, as the alkaline waters or potassium bicarbonate, combined with the