

cient. Where cachexia is present, small doses should be taken night and morning for some time.

17. *Picrate of Quinia*.—Dr. MASSE communicated to the Academy of Medicine of Paris the results of his trials with this preparation in intermittent and remittent fevers. He stated that this preparation, though it exercised a curative power in intermittent fevers, was less effectual than the sulphate of quinia. Its bitterness renders its administration difficult; and it has no curative power in bilious remittent fever. Hence it is not a true substitute for the sulphate of quinia.—*La Revue Scientifique*, May 4th, 1872.

18. *Ethyl-chloride of Mercury*.—Dr. PRUEMERS, of Berlin, states (*Virchow's Archiv*, December, 1871) that, after some experiments on animals, he used this preparation in some syphilitic cases with eruptions. He injected subcutaneously a solution containing $\frac{1}{10}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a grain of the substance, and generally 10–20 injections were sufficient. The injection produced no considerable pain, and no appreciable infiltration or induration of the part, presenting in these respects a marked contrast to the injection of corrosive sublimate. There was also no disturbance of the digestive organs or salivation. He has also administered the agent in the form of pill, the dose being half a grain to a grain, night and morning. In this case also there were no unpleasant results.—*Glasgow Med. Journ.*, May, 1872.

19. *Pulvis Glycyrrhizæ Compositus, a laxative preparation of the Prussian Pharmacopæia*.—Dr. DAVID PAGE extols this preparation for the treatment of simple constipation resulting from atony of the bowels. "Whether in simple uncomplicated torpor of the intestines," he says, "or in constipation accompanying temporary gastric disorder, the powder, alone or auxiliary to appropriate remedies, is preferable to other preparations of its class. In the former, our object is rather to call into play the peristaltic action of the intestine than to deplete by serous transudation from its walls, and, in the latter especially, no prudent practitioner would run the risk of aggravating the disordered stomach by the exhibition of purgatives possessed of irritant or drastic properties. The compound liquorice powder is composed of the following constituents, so prepared as to form when incorporated an almost impalpable powder: Senna leaves, $\mathfrak{z}\text{vj}$; liquorice root, $\mathfrak{z}\text{vj}$; fennel seeds, $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$; sulphur, $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$; refined sugar, $\mathfrak{z}\text{xviij}$."

"The active ingredients are sulphur and senna. The action of the former, when administered alone, is frequently accompanied by tormina, and the continued use is apt to cause derangement of the mucous membrane of the upper intestine. The physiological action of sulphur appears to be upon the muscular coat, and less upon the mucous surface, while senna is a more active purgative, more apt to excite tormina, and acts more upon the mucous than the muscular coat. By the aromatic and stimulant properties of the fennel, and the demulcent action of the liquorice, itself a mild laxative, the effects of the more active constituents are judiciously modified.

"The usual dose is a small teaspoonful at bed-time in water, with which it is easily mixable, forming an agreeable draught. Children, to whom Gregory's powder is a terror, readily take it with the belief that it is a sweetmeat.

"That the action of the powder is not to produce catharsis with serous transudation is proved by the motions, which are usually well-formed and soft."—*The Practitioner*, May, 1872.

20. *Sulphovinate of Soda as a Purgative*.—Dr. RABUTEAU has taken this salt himself and administered it to others, and finds: 1. That the sulphovinate of soda purges in relatively feeble doses; 25 grammes, or five drachms, are always sufficient; 10 grammes act on children and sometimes on adults. 2. The number of evacuations varies according to the quantity ingested; with

¹ This formula is given in the Pharmacopœia Borussica.