

In conclusion, I would say that I deem it of the utmost importance that provision should be made for the care and custody of insane criminals. In no case should they be allowed to be at large, neither are they suitable subjects for insane asylums or the State prison.

REPORT UPON NEW PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS, AND THE INSPECTION OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

BY BENNETT F. DAVENPORT, M. D.

THE recent appearance of the sixth revision of the United States Pharmacopœia has added thirty crude organic drugs, sixty inorganic chemicals, one hundred and fifty pharmaceutical preparations, and sixteen miscellaneous substances, two hundred and fifty-six titles in all, to the official list of our materia medica, while it has dropped two hundred and twenty-nine titles that were contained in the preceding revision. The present Pharmacopœia contains nine hundred and ninety-seven official titles.

Among the newly added preparations are eleven abstracts, ten solid extracts, thirty-five fluid extracts, eleven syrups, twenty-two tinctures, and six wines. The abstracts are a new class of preparations introduced to supply the demand for dry powdered extracts. They are just twice the strength of the crude drug, or about twice that of the corresponding fluid extracts, which, according to this revision, will be made about five per cent. weaker than before. General directions for the preparing of triturations and tinctures of fresh herbs (*tinctura herbarum recentium*) have been introduced to insure uniformity in their preparation whenever they are prescribed.

The new official base for ointments, *petrolatum*, obtained from petroleum, is to have a melting point of from 40° to 51° C. The low melting variety is always to be dispensed when the melting point is not specified.

The single elixir of orange has been introduced to furnish a pleasant official vehicle for the administration of nauseous medicines.

By the process of reducing the proportion of drug to solvent in the tinctures, wines, etc., to some simple decimal relation, the strength of the tinctures of aconite, of nux vomica, of *veratrum viride* has been slightly reduced. The tincture of opium, however, has been strengthened about fifty per cent., while the acetum and *vinum opii*, upon the other hand, have been reduced.

The triturations are prepared with sugar of milk and ten per cent. of the powdered drug, just as is now the case with the new Dover's powders. The tinctures of the fresh herbs will contain fifty parts of the bruised herb to one hundred of alcohol. The abstracts are those of aconite, belladonna, conium, digitalis, hyoscyamus, ignatia, jalap, nux vomica, podophyllum, senega, and valerian.

Among the other new official preparations the following are the most important: Boric acid, which has of late been brought into prominence for its antiseptic properties.

Moulded nitrate of silver, which contains about five per cent. of silver chloride; and the diluted, having fifty per cent. of potassium nitrate.

Chloride of gold and sodium, which contains fifty per cent. of gold chloride.

Nitrate of potassium paper, which is an unsized paper that has been dipped into a saturated solution of the salt and then dried.

The several cinchona alkaloids, which were not before official.

A styptic collodion, containing twenty per cent. of tannic acid.

A capsicum plaster, having one fourth grain of oleoresin of capsicum spread upon each square inch of surface.

Fluid extracts of aconite root, of aromatic powder, of cannabis indica, of capsicum, of erythroxylon, of eucalyptus, of guarana, of hamamelis, of leptandra, of lobelia, of nux vomica, of pilocarpine, of podophyllum, of rhamnus frangula, of rhus glabra, of rose, of stramonium seeds.

Among the iron preparations are a saccharated carbonate and an iodide.

An ammoniated extract of liquorice in a scale form.

An ammonia liniment made with cotton-seed oil, a belladonna liniment having ninety-five per cent. of the fluid extract to five per cent. of camphor. A compound liniment of mustard containing three per cent. of the volatile oil.

A liquor pepsin containing four per cent. of the official saccharated pepsin, which is of such an assayed strength that one part dissolved in five hundred of water acidulated with seven parts of hydrochloric acid will dissolve at least fifty parts of hard-boiled egg-albumen in from five to six hours when kept at a temperature of 38° to 40° C.

Lithium benzoate and salicylate.

A mixture of acetate of iron and ammonia, of magnesia and asafoetida, and of rhubarb and soda.

A ten per cent. oleate of mercury, a two per cent. oleate of veratrine.

Denarcotized opium as a dry powder with sugar of milk, assaying fourteen per cent. of morphine.

A one per cent. phosphorus pill.

A compound powder of liquorice having two per cent. more senna than the familiar powder from the German Pharmacopœia.

Sugar of milk replaces soda sulphate in Dover's powder, and Tully's powder has been introduced under the title of *pulv. morphin. comp.*

Sapo viridis is now made official, as is also sodium benzoate, bromide, iodide, and salicylate. So also is cologne, under the title of *spiritus odoratus*.

To the tinctures, which have now all some simple proportion to if they are not of an exact ten per cent. strength, have been added those of fresh orange peel, ferri acetate, gelsemium, ignatia, ipecac with opium containing one hundred parts of deodorized tincture of opium to ten of fluid extract of ipecac, physostigma, aromatic and sweet tincture of rhubarb, and, the most important of all, the simple tincture of opium, with the camphorated and deodorized tinctures, all of which are of new strengths in this revision, the deodorized being made of the same strength as the simple tincture, while the camphorated is only one twenty-fifth of that. The simple tincture itself is now required to be made from eleven per cent. more opium powder than formerly, while the opium itself must have at least twenty per cent. but not over sixty per cent. more morphine than was formerly required. The tincture is thus now required to have from thirty-three to seventy-seven, or an average of about fifty per cent. more morphine strength than it was formerly. This is a fact that it

will be well for all physicians and pharmacists to bear in mind whenever using the preparation.

The only trituration given in the pharmacopœia is that of elaterin.

An ammonium chloride troche has been introduced, also one of sodium santoninate.

Among the ointments is the petrolatum or petroleum ointment, and also that of chrysophanic acid, also gallic, besides the diachylon, iodoform, and the compound sulphur ointment.

The new wines are the white and red, both of ten to twelve per cent. of alcohol by weight, also the stronger white of twenty to twenty-five per cent. There are also the wines aromatic, ferri amarum, and citratis.

Besides the above new official preparations, tannate of albumen has come into use as an internal astringent.

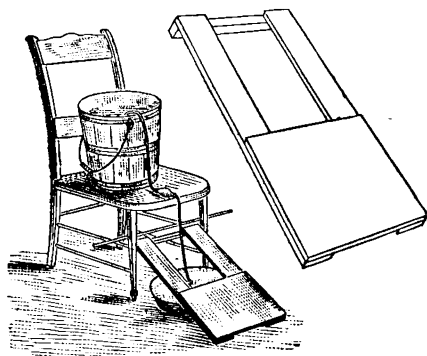
New Instruments.

A VAGINAL DOUCHE.

BY J. B. GEROULD, M. D., NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MASS.

THE hot douche as a therapeutic means in the treatment of uterine and vaginal disease is of recognized value. But outside of the hospital and among people of means its use is very limited. The apparatus which renders the taking of a hot vaginal douche a comparatively easy undertaking is quite expensive, thereby excluding it from a large class of patients. When we try to reach the same end by the use of pillows, rubber cloth, chairs, etc., our patient is generally overcome by the manifold directions, and if the attempt is made she is almost sure to saturate herself, the bed, and bedding, and the hot douche is ever after thought of only with disgust. Then with any apparatus an assistant can hardly be dispensed with.

The following simple contrivance I have found ma-



terially simplifies the matter, and renders the taking of the hot douche not such an appalling operation. The expense is practically nothing, an assistant can be dispensed with, and the preparations for taking the injection can be made in a moment. A blanket, chair, pail of hot water, syringe, wash-basin, and board (which I will now describe) constitute the necessary apparatus. The board is of one half inch, either pine or white-wood, from ten to twelve inches long, and ten inches wide, on the under side of which two strips two and a half by twenty-four inches are nailed (see cut); uniting the two free ends is a short strip, which hooks over round in the chair, thus preventing any slipping. A cushion tacked on the board will increase the comfort of the

patient; this should be covered with some rough cloth rather than anything smooth. The siphon syringe is the best, but by adding two feet of one fourth inch rubber tubing to suction end of a Davidson's we get the same thing. A broom-stick resting on the upper rounds of the chair and tied to the front legs makes a very good rest for the feet.

The patient is to take the blanket and fold it lengthwise two or three times, and lay on the floor; two feet from one end of it is placed the chair, in which is a pail of hot water and syringe, and between is the board (described above). An earthen wash-bowl is placed at one side within easy reach. She is now to lay down with the nates well over the edge of the board; by raising herself on feet and shoulders the board can easily be hooked on round of the chair. Now slip basin under the board and everything is in readiness for the injection. The ordinary wash-basin holds nearly one half pail of water, so by having two the necessity of interrupting the douche will be avoided.

Reports of Societies.

BOSTON SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL OBSERVATION.

C. M. JONES, M. D., SECRETARY.

NOVEMBER 6TH. DR. C. H. WILLIAMS presided.
DR. M. H. RICHARDSON read the regular paper on

TRACHEOTOMY, WITH A REPORT OF THREE CASES,¹ and illustrated various points of the paper by reference to a careful dissection of the region involved.

DR. PORTER said: The subject of tracheotomy is deeply interesting to me personally, and in the whole range of surgery there is no operation which I approach with so much dread, not that it is more difficult than any other, but the life of the patient depends on its proper seasonable performance, and the time allowed is short. On the cadaver the operation is simple and easy, nor on the living subject where the parts are healthy, and the trachea is opened merely as a matter of convenience in order to facilitate operations on the throat or face, is there likely to be much trouble. But in the diseased subject, where the parts are swollen and in motion, where the trachea lies abnormally deep, where the patient is suffering from asphyxia present or impending, and the veins are distended, the operation is often exceedingly difficult. One can never tell beforehand what difficulties must be encountered. They come suddenly as the operator advances in dividing one tissue after another. The operation is most frequently done for diphtheria, and it is with especial reference to this that I shall discuss the subject.

What are the most important complications? They are three in number: first, spasm of the glottis caused by ether; second, hæmorrhage; third, the frequent membranous lining of the trachea.

First, spasm of the glottis often results from ether. It probably occurs in the majority of cases, and renders it necessary to complete the operation quickly. I never undertake tracheotomy without at least two trained assistants, one to attend to the ether, the other to help the operation. Twice I have nearly lost patients through inability to observe this rule. In one case where I had but one skilled helper, it was only through the aid of the father, who had the nerve and

¹ See page 553 of this number of the JOURNAL.