

A specimen which we have seen shows a tolerable degree of strength, but is not by any means equal to the silicate-of-potash bandage.

— Dr. Edward Warren (Bey), a prominent American physician of Paris, has just been created a Knight of the Order of Isabel the Catholic, as a recognition of the professional skill displayed by him in the successful treatment of some Spanish personages of high position.

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#### NITRATE OF PILOCARPINE.

MESSRS. EDITORS,— Permit me to call the attention of your readers to the very convenient means now accessible for producing the inimitable diaphoretic and sialagogue effects of *jaborandi*. I refer to the nitrate of its alkaloid, *pilocarpine*. This may be administered subcutaneously without trouble, and produces within five minutes a distinct moisture of the skin, and in a few minutes more profuse sweating and flow of saliva, lasting for some hours.

In a case of Bright's disease (parenchymatous nephritis of an extreme degree), where the hot-air bath failed to procure diaphoresis, and where *jaborandi* in infusion was vomited, the subcutaneous injection of a little more than one fourth of a grain of nitrate of *pilocarpine* produced abundant sweating and copious flow of saliva. The injection was several times repeated, as much, however, for the great relief afforded by its sialagogue action to the distressing dryness of the mouth as for the mitigation of the general symptoms, although the patient at first expressed himself as feeling much more comfortable after its action.

It has been used with similar results in two other cases, once in each. The therapeutic value of this drug cannot be considered at present as well determined; but such a convenient method of administration ought soon to furnish sufficient data for this purpose.

A solution of nitrate of *pilocarpine* grs. iiss or 0.16 gramme, aq. destill. 3i. or 4 grammes, of which six minims or c.c. 0.4 may be injected, is of convenient strength.

I wish also to say a word of the value of picric or carbazotic acid as a test for albumen. It is said both by Professor Tyson and Professor Bowditch that it is less sensitive than either nitric acid or heat. Dr. Tyson, however, gives an erroneous method for its use. He says the picric acid is dropped into the urine, "when each drop as it passes through the urine is followed by an opaque white cloud." Picric acid does not "pass through" urine unless dropped from some distance, since a saturated solution thereof is *lighter* than urine.

The tube should be filled with the acid and the urine dropped in; when in a favorable light a cloud can be seen even from quite dilute solutions of albumen.

A specimen of urine which in its natural condition showed a considerable quantity of albumen still gave, when diluted twenty times, a perceptible cloud in a good light. It also gave a faint white ring with nitric acid, which also required a favorable light to be seen. It is possible that beyond this point a minuter trace could be detected with nitric than with picric acid. Diluted

forty times neither test detected it. I doubt, however, whether with colored urine (the dilution in this case being made with water, which of course diminished the color in equal proportion to the albumen) the nitric acid precipitate could have been any more easily seen than that with picric acid. Again, Dr. Tyson says, when speaking of the heat test, "Acetic acid is preferred to nitric for acidulating the urine, because if the quantity of albumen be small it may hold it in solution by nitric acid" (page 37). This fallacy is not avoided by the use of acetic acid unless great care is used.

A specimen of which five c.c. when acidulated with one drop of acetic acid gave abundant white flocculi on boiling, when acidulated with five drops gave hardly more than opalescence, and remained clear when a little more was added. Sulphuric, muriatic, and oxalic acids have the same action, while picric even in large proportion does not, so that it is useful as an adjuvant to the boiling test. Finally, it shows one form of albumen of which neither nitric acid nor heat give the least indication.

R. T. EDES.

COMPARATIVE MORTALITY-RATES FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 21, 1877.

	Estimated Population, July 1, 1877.	Total Mortality for the Week.	Annual Death-Rate per 1000 for the Week.	Death-Rate for the Year 1876.
New York	1,077,228	754	36.39	27.46
Philadelphia	850,856	438	26.77	22.88
Brooklyn	527,830	300	29.56	24.31
Chicago	420,000	258	31.94	20.41
Boston	363,940	197	28.14	23.39
Providence	103,000	43	21.71	18.34
Worcester	52,977	19	18.65	22.00
Lowell	53,678	16	15.50	22.21
Cambridge	51,572	33	33.27	20.54
Fall River	50,372	25	25.80	22.04
Lawrence	37,626	25	34.55	23.32
Lynn	34,524	11	16.57	21.37
Springfield	32,976	13	20.49	19.69
Salem	26,739	8	15.56	23.57