

though it was injected from the outside of the body, increasing arterial tension and blood pressure. Then a whiff or two of chloroform might induce sudden fibrillation and death. How often do we hear of such deaths at the very beginning of chloroform anesthesia. We have ascribed them to weak hearts. Now we know a better explanation. In this connection it will be remembered that the morphine scopolamine compound is said to banish all fear of an operation and cause a condition of calm confidence. We can see at once how useful that might be.

#### HEXAMETHYLENAMIN FOR INFECTIONS OF THE URINARY BLADDER.

Just at present there is a division of opinion as to the efficiency of hexamethylenamin as a disinfectant of the urinary bladder.

All agree that its value depends upon its yielding free formaldehyde, which occurs only in an acid medium. Formaldehyde will be found in acid urine after the injection of hexamethylenamin, but never in alkaline urine. Hence it is needful to acidify alkaline or neutral urine in order to secure the germicidal effect of the drug. For this purpose the most sure and harmless agent is dilute hydrochloric acid, 15 drops in a glass of water an hour before and an hour after taking the medicine. They should never be given at the same time. Benzoic acid and boric acid are sometimes given for that purpose, but they are inferior to the other. The hexamethylenamin should be given in doses of not less than ten grains, in capsules, one hour before regular meals. At this time the gastric contents are most apt to be alkaline and therefore will not prematurely decompose the drug, which would then release formaldehyde and cause great irritation of that viscus. The least strength of a solution of formaldehyde in urine to be of any clinical value is 1|30,000; a strength of 1|5,000 is sufficient to inhibit the growth of most organisms, and 1|6,000 is germicidal.

Whether or not the administration of hexamethylenamin for the purpose of disinfecting other cavities is a successful measure remains undetermined. Certain physicians have had good results to follow it, while others fail to obtain any benefit whatever. Of course, the natural alkalinity of the blood enables it to deposit a solution of hexamethylenamin, undecomposed, to suppurating tissues, but unless their discharges display acidity it is difficult to understand whence can come the decomposition necessary to release the formaldehyde. The question is far from decided.

#### THE BICHLORIDE PROBLEM.

The idea that when bichloride of mercury is sold to the laity in form of tablets it should be combined with tartar emetic seems to be logical in view of the frequent accidents and suicides that are everywhere occurring from swallowing the so-called antiseptic tablets. A formula suggested for each tablet is 7.3 grains of mercury bichloride, 7.7 grains of ammonium chloride, and 1.25 grains of tartrate of antimony of potassium, so compounded that the tartar emetic will produce vomiting before the caustic and poisonous effects of the corrosive sublimate can occur. It is claimed that the tablets so compounded will be even more efficient as an antiseptic and germicide than the form at present in use. If experience confirms this view, the legislature of every state should make it unlawful to dispense or sell any other form of bichloride tablets except to physicians personally.

#### AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS AND FEE SPLITTING.

"At the meeting in Washington when the American College of Surgeons was founded, the question was asked whether the college would positively exclude surgeons who were suspected of fee-splitting or paying commissions in any form whatsoever. The president declared that no one should be admitted who was suspected of being guilty of this pernicious practice. This declara-