

mediately cooled to the temperature of melting ice, and this temperature is maintained till the plate cultivation is commenced not later than five hours afterwards, and it is continued at 21 degrees C., for forty-and sunsline, and only need proper food and outdoor life, with stimulant treatment, to retain their health. Those in which it is moderately valuable are the pseudo-chlorotics who have as an underlying cause a tendency to develop tuberculosis with general debility; but as a rule the more dyspeptic the patient the less good will iron do. The cases in which the iron is most useful are those in which the patients are devoid of dyspeptic symptoms, when any one of the common iron preparations may be given in large or small doses with advantage. Should there be a syphilitic dyscrasia underlying the anæmia, mercurials should be administered in addition to the iron, preferably the bichloride of mercury.

**Nervous Diarrhea in Pregnancy.**—Conidio (Centralbl. f. Gynak) has published a monograph in Italian on an interesting complication which he considers to be related to hyperæmesis gravidarum. Whilst the latter is more frequent in the higher ranks of life, diarrhea seems commoner amongst poor pregnant women. Obstetricians note its occurrence in lying-in hospitals in cities where it is hardly ever seen in private practice. Out of 3,674 pregnant women diarrhea was observed in thirty-five. No fewer than twenty-one of these cases occurred in primipara. Temperature has little influence on this affection, but errors of diet are more probably among its causes. Nervous diarrhea begins about the fifth month, and may become formidable; it has been found to continue even in childbed. Nerve tonics are indicated, and as in hyperæmesis, premature labor must be induced if the diarrhea persists and the patient becomes seriously debilitated.—Brit. Med. Jour.

#### CHROMIC ACID AS A TEST FOR ALBUMEN IN URINE.

Free chromic acid in watery solution is a powerful coagulator of albuminous substances, which it precipitates completely,

without combining with them, and either with or without the aid of heat. M. Guerin (*Journ. de Pharm. et de Chim.*) gives the following method of employing this re-agent: Place in a test tube of 5 to 6 c. c. capacity, 3 c. c. of the suspected urine, previously filtered; then add a 10 percent solution of chromic acid, drop by drop. The immediate appearance of a white, flaky precipitate will indicate the probable presence of albumen. Now heat the urine just to boiling: if the turbidity persists, it is certainly caused by albumen, this alone remaining undissolved, while the precipitates yielded by albuminose, peptones, etc., as also by a large number of alkaloids, will not withstand heat. There may be a slight degree of opalescent turbidity due to resinous acids formed after the ingestion of copaiba balsam. This will not be removed by heat, but will disappear on the addition of a little alcohol. The chromic acid test is exceedingly delicate, detecting two milligrams of albumen in 100 c. c. of urine.

The only nutrient portion of meat, is the solid part. Hence beef tea, although stimulating, has no food value. The only portion of the flesh of an animal which is possessed of real nutritive value is that part which has been alive and active before death. These living structures are not soluble; if they were, an animal which happened to fall into the water would dissolve like a lump of sugar. During life there is a small portion of nutritive material in solution in circulation in the body. After death, this small amount of soluble food material is rapidly converted into excrementitious matter; and as the skin, kidneys, and lungs cease their action, these poisonous substances rapidly accumulate within the body, the molecular or cell life of the body continuing some hours after death.

It thus appears that beef tea, as a French physician recently remarked, is a veritable solution of poisons. The only portion of the flesh which has any nutritive value is that which is thrown away in making the beef tea or extract. The popular faith in beef tea as a concentrated nourishment has however, become so thoroughly fixed and rooted that