

ing following operations, acetanilide is particularly useful, and the administration of 2 grains every hour until 6 grains are taken will often prevent this unpleasant sequel of operative interference. We have used acetanilide for this purpose a number of times with very satisfactory results, our attention having first been called to it by Dr. Brown, of Sioux Falls, S.D., who told us that it was his custom in country practice to leave acetanilide with the nurse after the operation, with instructions to administer the drug should vomiting after recovery from the anæsthetic be an annoying symptom.

Whether it is of value in the treatment of the vomiting of pregnancy we do not know, but we would suggest its further trial. Probably the best way to administer it is to place the powdered drug in a little brandy, and then to add to a spoon some ice which has been finely pulverized. In this way we not only get the stimulating and anti-emetic powers of the brandy, but we aid in the solution and therefore in the rapid absorption of the acetanilide. It is possible that the drug exercises its anti-emetic effects chiefly by its influence upon the stomach itself, but we are inclined to think that the benefit is derived not only from this, but also from its influence on the nervous system after it is absorbed.—*Therapeutic Gazette.*

THE VALUE OF CHLOROFORM IN INTERNAL MEDICINE.

We are so apt to regard chloroform as a pure anæsthetic when taken by inhalation, that many of us are wont to overlook its value as an internal medicament, and, as a result of this oversight, lose a valuable aid to treatment in many affections, some of which are apt to obstinately resist the ordinary remedial measures. One of the most important applications of chloroform is its internal use for the relief of pain either in the chest or abdomen, pain in the latter region yielding naturally more readily to its influence. Particularly is this the case where the pain is of a griping character, either due to irritability of unstriated muscular tissue in the wall of the intestine or to the presence of irritating foods or large quantities of flatus. Under such circumstances 20 to 40 drops of the spirit of chloroform added to two tablespoonfuls of water, and perhaps aided by 10 to 20 drops of the spirit of camphor, is one of the very best prescriptions that we can give. Further than this, those of us who believe in the value of antiseptic medication will recognize the fact that chloroform, under the circumstances which we have named, not only relieves the pain, but acts as one of the most powerful antiseptics which can be taken internally with moderate impunity. It is a well-recognized fact in therapeutics that many volatile substances seem to exercise very considerable

power in checking all forms of watery diarrhoea, and where pain in the abdomen is associated with liquid movements, chloroform possesses a third scope for usefulness. Not only is it of value in the forms of pain which are due to direct irritation or inflammation in the abdomen, but it is also useful in those pains which are due to nervous disturbance, such, for example, as in ordinary neuralgia of the stomach or true gastralgia. In obstinate vomiting, 2 to 5 drops of pure chloroform in a little water, taken in teaspoonful doses, will often act advantageously, and when the vomiting is due to the ingestion of bad food, particularly food which has undergone some decomposition process, it is especially indicated. In the vomiting of pregnancy, with some practitioners, it is held to be the best remedy. Another very valuable application of chloroform is its employment externally in liniments in cases of muscular rheumatism for stiffness of the muscles due to strain or excessive exercise. Possessing, as it does, not only counter-irritant, but anæsthetic effects, its employment in this manner is most advantageous. Another use to which it is too rarely put is for the production of counter-irritation varying from slight reddening to actual blistering of the skin. Slight reddening is rapidly produced by applying a cloth saturated with chloroform to some portion of the skin so remote from the respiratory apparatus as to avoid inhalation in any large quantity, and the blisters may be formed by placing chloroform on the skin under a watch-glass, so that too rapid evaporation will not take place. For those who are unable to take opium in any combination for the relief of pain in any part of the body, a prescription composed of 30 drops of spirit of chloroform and 10 minims of the fluid extract of a good cannabis indica is a valuable prescription.—*Therapeutic Gazette.*

FISTULA IN ANO.

Dr. John E. Platt has analyzed 76 cases of this affection treated by him, and concludes that fistula is very much more common in men than women, only 8 of the 76 cases being females. The great majority occurred between the ages of 20 and 50 years, only 4 being under 20 years. There were definite signs of phthisis in 21 (28.7 per cent.), and a family history of consumption in 5 or 6 others who themselves showed no sign of the disease. As pointed out by Allingham, phthisical fistulæ usually present certain well-marked characteristics. The internal opening is large and open, being often large enough to admit the tip of the finger. The external opening is also large and irregular, its edges livid and flapping, and the surrounding skin undermined. The discharge is thin, watery, and curdy; the sphincter muscles are weak, the ischial tuberosities are