

of pregnancy, completely and rapidly cured by the local application of cocaine to the vagina and cervix uteri. In the first place the uterus was markedly anteflexed and tender; in the second it was normal as to position, but tender, while the third was slightly anteflexed. In all three cases the roof of the vagina and the cervix were freely painted with a 15% solution of cocaine, and a plug of cotton-wool soaked in the same solution, was carefully inserted into the cervical canal for about three-quarters of an inch. In all three cases the results were wholly satisfactory. The author wisely draws attention to the danger of causing abortion by the application to the cervical canal, which he advises should be made with great care.

STRYCHNINE AS AN ANTIDOTE TO ALCOHOL.—

The benefits derived (*Lancet*) from strychnine in dipsomania, have led another observer to undertake experiments to show what the antagonistic action of that drug is to alcohol. He experimented on dogs, and drew the following conclusions: 1. Strychnine undoubtedly neutralizes the intoxicating and narcotic effects of alcohol. 2. It enables large quantities of alcohol to be taken for a considerable stretch of time without causing the usual organic lesions which follow the use of alcohol alone. 3. There are, however, limits beyond which the alkaloid itself becomes injurious to the organism. 4. Therapeutically, strychnine should be used in all forms of alcoholism. 5. It may be regarded as a powerful prophylactic against alcoholism.

CALOMEL IN SMALL DOSES IN PNEUMONIA.—The use of calomel in pneumonia has been frequently recommended by various writers and clinicians. Some physicians advise its use from the commencement of the disease; others, again, speak of its use in promoting resolution only. In solidification, accompanied with dry tongue and skin, we have derived great benefit from its early use in small doses given often. We usually give about one-twelfth of a grain every hour for forty-eight hours, or until the symptoms are relieved. From what we have seen written on this treatment, and our own experience, we are inclined to believe it reliable. The calomel, however, should not be continued if the bowels become irritable from its use.

NERVE SUTURE.—In the clinical notes of the *Br. Med. Jour.*, a case, operated upon by Mr. Croft, of St. Thomas Hospital, is reported. The posterior tibial nerve had been cut across by a stab. The ends of the nerve were found retracted an inch and a half, but were carefully sutured together with very fine silk, and the wound dressed antiseptically. Twenty-four hours afterwards "sensation was observed to be present all over the foot, but modified in character in the sole." Five weeks later the leg was entirely well, the boy having perfect use of, and perfect sensation in, the foot and leg.

MARRIAGE AND INSANITY IN IRELAND.—The *Lancet* in a review of the Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum (*Am. Jour. of Insanity*) makes note of the curious fact that the single among the inmates are three times more numerous than the married and widowed combined, and adds that this fact is observable in most, if not all, Irish asylums. In the State of New York quite the contrary seems to be the rule, as an examination of the statistics of the Utica asylum shows that the number of single inmates is only about half that of the married and widowed.

ANTIPYRIN IN INSOMNIA.—Dr. Drayton (*Med. Rec.*) mentions the case of a patient in whom he succeeded in obtaining refreshing sleep, after the usual remedies, such as the bromides, chloral, and morphia had proved ineffectual. He gave six grains of antipyrin with two of antifebrin, with the result that she soon became quiet and fell asleep. She slept six hours and awoke refreshed. The antipyrin was continued for four nights with the happiest results, no more sleeplessness having been complained of.

THE WONDERS OF THE TELEPHONE.—A physician reports to us, says the *Medical Age*, December 10th, that he was saved a two-mile ride through a driving storm the other night by having the patient, a child, brought to the instrument and held there until it coughed. He diagnosed false croup, prescribed two grains of turpeth mineral, and turned in for an undisturbed sleep during the remainder of the night. He found the patient in the morning doing nicely—under the care of another doctor.

SWALLOWING ARTIFICIAL TEETH.—Mr. Eglinton writing to the *Lancet*, says a patient of his swal-