

had been subject to the disease for but eighteen months. The third case had been under observation only ten days at the time of the report, but progress was very satisfactory. Dr. Bower says he does not rely solely upon strophanthus, believing it necessary to observe the ordinary hygienic rules, and he also advises the use of tonics, and the application of galvanism.

Theoretically, the use of galvanism in these cases would appear to be of great value, but it is doubtful if it is often applied on the correct theory—that which is advanced by Dr. Poole—and explained in his paper published in this Journal more than a year ago. The theory advocated is, that by the use of electricity the nerve supplying the group of muscles, or the tissues affected is paralyzed, and as a consequence they contract, and possibly in cases of his kind the size of the smaller arteries is lessened, and in this way it contributes towards cutting off the supply of blood to the thyroid body.

Another remedy is of value from a theoretical standpoint, and its practicability has been demonstrated in securing the object sought to be obtained. We have reference here to ergot; but in order to obtain the best results, caution and judgment are required on the part of the attendant. In connection with strophanthus its importance cannot be over-estimated in the treatment of exophthalmic goitre, a most rebellious disease. Strophanthus, while acting upon the heart muscle, has but a limited effect upon the arterial system, and when supplemented by ergot, the experience of the writer warrants a favorable opinion of the plan suggested. The ergot should be given only at bed hour, the dose being from half a drachm to a drachm; but in exceptional cases, where it is desired to bring the patient more under the influence of the drug, this may be modified by distributing the same throughout the day, by dividing it into say, twelve or fifteen doses, an equal portion to be taken every hour. A favorable effect will generally be noted within a remarkably short time, and as soon as the circulation is brought under control, the use of a tonic, of which one of the many preparations of iron is the base, is indicated. With the elimination of exciting causes, this method may be counted upon as affording the best prospects of success. Please make a note of it.—*Medical Register*.

ALKALINISED CASCARA PREPARATIONS.

In view of the recent discussion on the activity of cascara preparations which have been rendered palatable by treatment with alkali, the following comments by Dr. John Irving, of Leytonstone, which we take from the *British Medical Journal*, are of interest, and apart from the notes give some hints which chemists may

advantageously follow up. Dr. Irving calls attention to the repulsive looking mixture which the ordinary liquid extract forms with water, and states that this unsightliness may be entirely and satisfactorily obviated without the use of either glycerine or syrups. A very small quantity of liq. ammoniæ, B.P., dropped into the watery mixture will clear it to a bright ruby color, seen by transmitted light, the transparency of which is not altered by a flavoring agent such as tinct. aurantii, nor by a sweetner like saccharin:—

Ext. casc. sag liq.....	mxxx.
Liq. ammoniæ	gr. iij.
Tinct. aurantii.....	mxxv.
Liq. sacchar. (5 per cent).....	q.s.
Aque	3iss
M. Ft. haust.	

Again, ammonia permits cascara to be dispensed with some preparations of iron, such as ferri et ammonii citras, the mixture, though dark in proportion to the amount of extract used, being a perfect solution:—

Ferri et ammon. citratis.....	gr. xxx
Liq. ammoniæ	mx.
Ext. casc. sag. liq.....	3ss. to ʒj
Liq. saccharin.....	q.s.
Aq. aromat. ad.....	3vj.
M. Cap. unciam ter in die.	

This combination is especially serviceable, with (or without) small doses of digitalis, where the heart is enfeebled and constipation exists, with tendency to cedema of the extremities; in such a case the liquid extract of cascara, given with the iron in regulated small doses three or four times a day, serves an obvious twofold purpose: (1) it counteracts the binding effect of iron in relieving the bowels, and (2) assists the circulation by removing excess of fluid. In a similar way cascara may be combined with liq. bismuthi et ammon. citratis in digestive derangements. Numerous other mixtures will doubtless suggest themselves; the only point to be kept in mind is that the medicine containing the cascara must be somewhat alkaline, and made so with ammonia [or, it has been suggested, with potash].—*Chemist and Druggist*.

ACCOUNTS RENDERED QUARTERLY.

There was a time when the services of physicians were not considered as an article of merchandise, with a fairly definite price, but rather as acts of benevolence and humanity, and then grateful patients signified their appreciation of these services by gifts in the nature of an honorarium. But this time has passed away, and now every medical man is compelled to keep accounts, and periodically to try to collect what he believes is due him by the unromantic method of sending out bills.