

in the second case of a very typical gastric ulcer pain. — ROBT. E. LORD, M.D., in *Manchester Med. Chronicle*.

**Absorption of Salicylic Acid by the Skin and its Use in Acute Rheumatism.**—Dr. Bourget (*Revista de Ciencias Médicas de Barcelona*, No. 24, 1893) concludes as follows:

1. Absorption of salicylic acid by the skin is very rapid and intense. The skin of youthful individuals is most absorbent, while persons with white skins are more so than those with brown or black.

2. The rapidity and intensity of absorption depends upon the vehicle in which the acid is dissolved. Fatty substances especially favour its introduction through the skin, while with vaseline or glycerine it is less.

3. The treatment of acute articular rheumatism by a salve of salicylic acid and turpentine is to be recommended. It is less serviceable in other forms of rheumatism, yet it might be of use as an adjunct in massage.

4. In gonorrheal rheumatism it is inactive.

**Diphtheria.** *The Polyclinic* summarizes the treatment as follows:

1. Germicidal treatment, preferably by the use of strong hydrochloric acid, used early to be effectual: especially valuable in cases beginning on the tonsils.

2. Local cleanliness by the use of a weak antiseptic solution in the pharynx.

3. Nasal syringing with the same solutions in every case where there is nasal discharge.

4. Alcoholic stimulants begun as soon as the first systemic effects of the poison are seen, and in very severe cases pushed to the point of tolerance.

5. Calomel fumigations as soon as laryngeal symptoms appear.

6. Intubation in laryngeal cases not relieved by fumigation. — L. EMMETT HOLT in *Archives of Pediatrics*.

### Jaundice and Emotional Disturbance.

Dr. E. A. Lubbock (Fulham Road, S.W.) writes: "On the evening of March 31st last I delivered a fragile, highly sensitive young lady (by no means hysterical, by the way), a primipara, of a stillborn male child. The 'waters,' I was informed, had

broken and escaped ten days previously. Delivery was instrumental, and was accomplished, while the patient was under chloroform, with some difficulty. Some thirty-six hours after, my patient, otherwise doing well, developed jaundice, which speedily became intense. There was no pain, no nausea, and the temperature was normal. The lochia were foul, otherwise there have been no troubles, and to-day, five days since its appearance, the jaundice is beginning to fade. Four of my medical neighbours whom I have asked have never seen a like case, neither has such a one been seen by my old teacher, a gentleman who has been for many years obstetric physician to one of the great London hospitals, so I venture to bring the case to your notice. Was the jaundice due to emotional disturbance? — *British Medical Journal*.

### The Preparation of a Nutrient Medium for Bacteria From Eggs.

—Wesener (*Centralbl. f. allgem. Path.*, January 31st, 1894) gives a simple method of preparing from a hen's egg a solid, opaque nutrient medium for the cultivation of bacteria. Koch originally employed eggs for this purpose, directing that they should be boiled hard and then cut into two equal portions. The disadvantage of this plan is the want of uniformity in the composition of the medium (yolk in the centre, white of egg in the periphery). This Wesener overcomes by the simple expedient of mixing yolk and albumen by shaking the egg before boiling. At first a slight tap is experienced by the finger as the intact ball of yolk impinges against the shell, but presently this is no longer felt: it may, then, be concluded that the membrane investing the yolk has been ruptured. After a little further shaking, with the object of mixing the two constituents thoroughly, the egg is placed in water at 75 to 80° C. for one-half to three-quarters of an hour. It is then transferred to sublimate solution for cooling and for sterilization of the surface: on removal, after drying with sterilized wool, the shell and membrane investing the white of the egg are removed. The contents of the egg are now seen to be solid, and of a uniform golden-yellow color. Three or four slices are cut from the mass with a sterilized knife, placed in Esmarch's dishes, and sterilized as usual. Upon a nutrient medium so prepared almost all the well-known