

ELECTROLYSIS VS. DIVULSION OR CUTTING IN THE TREATMENT OF URETHRAL STRICTURES.

Doctor Newman, of New York City, depends entirely on the electrolytic action of absorption, which does not destroy the mucous lining, but affects the new formation. In the meeting mentioned above, Dr. W. J. Morton was the only one who said that "Dr. Taylor was not quite fair to Dr. Newman, in stating that the latter burned his way through the stricture, for certainly Dr. Newman distinctly states in his writings that mild currents are used," etc. There is absolutely no burning or destruction in the mucous lining by the writer's method of electrolysis, and he refers again to his writings and also to the results of his experiments in electrolysis on dogs, that were treated by a stronger current and nevertheless recovered in good shape. Even if a mucous lining is injured by caustics, it would recover itself, as we see in gynaecological practice, and Dr. I. A. Taylor has in his operations demonstrated this fact to the class of Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

The way a cure by electrolysis is effected is as follows:—A No. 11 French electrode connected with the negative pole of a galvanic battery is introduced to the stricture; three, four, or even five milliamperes are used; the electrode is held on the stricture (guided but no force used) till the absorption allows the electrode to pass and be easily withdrawn. After one week the operation is repeated with a No. 14 French electrode, egg-shaped, using a current of from three to five milliamperes for about ten minutes. Each week a seance follows with a larger electrode, till the stricture is absorbed and the calibre of the urethra restored to its normal size.

NOSE BLEACH.

The Revue Chirurgical states that spraying with a five per cent. solution of boric acid is an effectual nose bleach.

COW DUNG AS A CAUSE OF THE INFECTION OF MILK BY BACTERIA.

The connection of cholera infantum with the bacteria of milk is demonstrated. Flügge has especially referred to twelve kinds of bacteria which he has isolated which occur in market-milk, one of which peptonises casein strongly; three of these species are strongly pathogenic. The author takes up the question of the introduction into considering the circumstance that, according to several investigations, from 3 to 19.7m.grm. of impurities were found in milk which on microscopic examination are found to consist of particles of dung; there were instituted a series of bacteriological investigations of cow-dung. In 0.001 grm. there were found as many as 20,000 aerobic bacteria. The anaerobic species and those which do not grow upon agar-agar we disregarded. From seven to eight distinct species were recognized. The majority belonged to the ordinary intestinal bacteria; about 1½ per cent. of all the bacteria were spores of peptonising bacteria. On a qualitative examination there were found four kinds of peptonising bacteria, I, VIII., IX., and XII., VIII., and XII. are especially of practical importance, as their spores are very persistent, and are not killed on boiling for four or five hours. The author believes therefore that cow-dung is one of the principal sources of the pollution of milk, especially on account of the peptonising and pathogenic bacteria.—(W. W. Fava.)—*Wratsch*, 1896, xvii., 1114, and *Chemiker Zeitung*.

ITCHING IN ECZEMA.

Prof. Buckley says: Use a solution of permanganate of potassium in water, of one to two per cent. or possibly stronger in some cases. This is brushed or mopped over the surface and allowed to dry, which it does quickly. The pink-colored fluid stains soon to a dark brown, and is finally thrown off by exfoliation of the tissues which it has oxidized.