

Dr. Seguin usually gives 20 minims with 20 grains of bromide of sodium in camphor water, at bedtime, to be repeated if necessary. In some cases (male adults) he gives 50 or 60 minims at one dose in the mixture, not to be repeated. Such a draught has been often returned to him by druggists, because they thought the dose enormous. "To be successful we must be bold, as bold as physiological knowledge can make us, and yet as cautious in the first giving of powerful drugs to a patient as if we had no courage at all."

IODOFORM AS A WOUND DRESSING.—There are many advantages in the use of this powder. The necessary dressings can be carried about, can be applied with little trouble, and left *in situ* a considerable period. It is undoubtedly the best dressing for the country surgeon, and for this last reason I think it wise to devote some space to its consideration.

In whatever way applied, in powder or solution it acts as a local disinfectant, and promotes a healthy action in the healing of wounds.

Its use has been overdone, of course. There is a class of surgeons who overdo everything. Charges of producing serious symptoms are brought against it. But are its toxic effects as often seen as those of carbolic acid? Three surgeons, in the German medical journals, have set forth their experiences. Schede of Hamburg (*Deutsche Med. Zeit.*, Feb. 2, 1882) has seen bad effects. Severe attacks of poisoning set in, in those who, by idiosyncrasy are subject to its noxious effects. Death, without any warning, may occur, even though the administration be immediately suspended. The symptoms produced are mainly as follows: Pyrexia (104 F.); depression of spirits, headache, anorexia, rapid small compressible pulse. Stopping the drug gives relief to these symptoms. A worse stage exists, in which the pulse rises to 150 or 180 or more with high fever, and in this condition the suspension of administration is not followed by reaction, and death follows. Schede also mentions certain forms of cerebral disturbance which either take the form of acute meningitis or of a psychological disease (melancholia, etc.) and lead to a fatal termination. No mention is made, however, of the quantity of iodoform used, or

the size of the wounds to which it was applied. Singularly enough, no *post mortem* records are given.

Küster (*Berliner Klin Wochenschrift*, No. 14, 1882) describes somewhat similar results from its overdoses. He has obtained astonishing successes with iodoform in checking decomposition, and in the treatment of tubercular diseases, against which carbolic acid was powerless, and he is of the decided opinion that resections are now much more successful in his clinic than formerly.

Mundy, of Vienna, in the same periodical, looks upon iodoform as the best form of dressing for the battle field. It requires no water to make solutions, nor clean vessels, and can be immediately applied in the first and second lines, where vessels and water are scarce and there is no time for circumstantial dressing.

Iodoform is applied in far too great a quantity to large surfaces (80 to 300 grammes at once!) On minutely examining the fatal cases of Mikulicz, Schede, König, Heftman, and Czerny, it was found that the *post mortem* records were not satisfactory and that many of the victims were anæmic, either very young or very old, subjects of old standing suppuration, or of organic disease. A small quantity of the powder should be dusted into the wound, and it should be removed only when absolutely necessary. Iodoform is a drug to be very carefully handled, taking into consideration that it contains 96 per cent. of nascent iodine.

PARSLEY AS AN ANTILACTIC.—Dr. Stanislas Martin states that as an external application, parsley acts most efficaciously in dispersing the milk, and that the Roman nations used it for this purpose. The breasts should be covered with freshly-plucked leaves, and these should be renewed several times a day as fast as they begin to fade. Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz confirms Dr. Martin's statement, and adds that in Asia Minor a cataplasm of parsley is used by the women as an ordinary domestic remedy, (*Bulletin de Thérapie*). Parsley is mentioned by Quincy in his "Compleat English Dispensatory, London, 1749," as being used by the common people "in cataplasms, to discuss and resolve, which by its penetrating nitrous salt it is frequently successful in doing."