

violence of the inflammation. They are cases that try the patience of the doctor and the patient both. Within the last year he has been using a treatment which has given great satisfaction. He uses Squibb's glycerole of the subacetate of lead and glycerine, one part of the first to seven of the latter. Under this treatment, the trouble disappears rapidly.—*Med. and Surg. Rep.*

IODOFORM AS A LOCAL APPLICATION IN FISSURE OF THE ANUS.

The value and efficacy of iodoform in fissure of the anus will bring this remedy into general use in the treatment of this painful and heretofore incurable lesion, without operation by the knife or forcible rupture of the sphincter ani muscle.

It is good surgical practice to cure surgical cases without surgical operation whenever it is safe and practicable; and while it is shorn of its brilliancy and eclat, the fact remains the same, and it is not questioned that conservatism in surgery has been steadily gaining ground, and that the boldest operators are those who weigh well the results before operating.

As in cases involving the greatest danger, so with fissure of the anus—if the trouble can be cured by simple means, without suffering to the patient, and in reasonably due time, the operation of cutting, or forcible rupture, is not justifiable, and both these means of radical cure must give way to the more simple, if such may exist. With the experience I have had in the use of the local application of iodoform in cases of fissure of the anus, I am encouraged to bring the value of this remedy to the notice of the profession in these cases. In their treatment with this remedy, the alvine evacuations should always be maintained in a soft condition; the bowels should never be allowed to become constipated or relaxed; the anus, and parts involved by the fissure, should be kept constantly clean and free from deposit and dry incrustations; and with one or two evacuations a day, the case may be speedily cured by the local use of iodoform. It may be dusted, in *very fine* powder, upon and into the fissured parts, or applied in the form of ointment or suppository. The application of the simple powders, if properly prepared, three or four times a day, after each evacuation, and in the intervals, is often sufficient. In some cases, however, the undiluted powder—although thoroughly powdered—causes some pain. In such, the iodoform may be mixed with powdered gum acacia, if a powder be preferred, or may be made into an ointment with vaseline, or suppository with the oil of theobroma. Balsam of Peru, carbolic acid, and oil of peppermint, will moderate the intensity of the iodoform odor; but this can hardly be requisite for application in this situation. The application of the remedy may be followed by a little smarting, but soon after its use the sensibility of the parts becomes benumbed, and even defecation

may go on without consciousness, so far as concerns the development of pain during or after the process. That this remedy applied as above directed and indicated will cause complete unconsciousness of the act of defecation, I doubt—I have never witnessed such result in any case that has come under my notice, and still the benumbing influence of the remedy is decidedly potent. As in applications to the conjunctival surfaces of the eyelids, the first and most important factor in the successful and painless use of the remedy consists in the proper preparation of the powder. It should be made *very fine*, and not the smallest crystal be allowed to remain unpowdered. The neglect of this precaution when applied to the eye has caused the most painful inflammation of the ocular and palpebral conjunctiva; and applied thus imperfectly powdered to the anus, would likewise cause intense suffering, and as in eye practice, would be abandoned, and declared to be dangerous and valueless, if intelligence did not bring relief.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

A case of relief from intra-cranial abscess by trephining, is reported by Dr. Kilgariff in the *British Medical Journal*. His patient had been thrown while hunting, and had been unconscious for two hours after. At the end of the second week he suffered from much pain over the occipital bone and from gastric irritability. A shallow depression being found over the seat of pain, he diagnosed fracture with formation of abscess. On incising the scalp he found pus, which came through a minute opening in the skull. He removed a button of bone with the trephine and evacuated half an ounce of pus. The abscess cavity was washed out with carbolized water, and the man made a good recovery in spite of erysipelas.—*St. Louis Med. Review.*

An interesting article describing the properties of the new remedy, ichthyol is communicated to the *Deutsch Med. Zeitung* by Dr. P. G. Unna, of Hamburg. It is an easily soluble substance, very volatile, of strong odor, containing a large proportion of sulphur, which on heating readily divides into H_2 , SO_3 , S, etc. It had been in popular use before its employment in diseases of the skin. Dr. Unna has used it in all forms of acute and chronic rheumatism, and considers it an antirheumatic of first rank, there being no other external remedy of similar efficiency. He uses it with vaseline in a strength of ten per cent. and more, brushed on the painful joints twice daily, and keeps the limbs in the meantime wrapped up in cotton. It has an analogous action with horses suffering from stiff joints, as has been reported by several veterinary surgeons. It has also been employed with benefit in lumbago, bronchial, nasal and laryngeal catarrh (inhalation of two per cent. solution), and in angina it is applied either with the brush or as spray. In parasitic diseases of the skin it is of