

and he regrets apparently that the practice has fallen into abeyance. He holds, in short, that the occurrence of appendicitis might be rendered vastly less frequent if people would eat less meat, and would secure the complete evacuation of the intestinal contents by periodical purging. These views are not exactly novel; indeed, in one form or another, they are universally recognized. It is a matter of experience that appendicitis occurs mostly in persons of a constipated habit. It is recognized to be always a disease of infective origin, and it follows that a diet rich in nitrogenous constituents must necessarily be more prone to decomposition, and must provide a more congenial *milieu* for pathogenic microbes than the intestinal contents of those who draw their nourishment more from the vegetable world. We make a present of this fact to our friends the vegetarians, warning them, in passing, that in avoiding Scylla they may fall victims to Charybdis. As one might anticipate, dyspeptics are specially prone to appendicitis. They are usually of a constipated habit, and digestion being imperfect and slow, they are more liable than others to fermentative changes in the imperfectly digested food; moreover, their digestive juices are less active and less able to destroy pathogenic organisms which may happen to be present, than the secretions of the healthy human animal. These are points worth bearing in mind, for there is every reason to believe that by attention to the principles enunciated by M. Lucas-Championnière a certain proportion of the cases of appendicular infection might be averted in persons predisposed thereto. Prevention is better than cure, and the success of surgical intervention, early undertaken, is not of itself a reason for not doing our best to render it unnecessary.—*Medical Press*.

Treatment of Mosquito Bites.

Dr. A. Manquat has treated numerous cases of mosquito bites with various substances, and has come to the conclusion that the most efficient applications are formaldehyde tincture of iodine, and alcohol, or eau de cologne with menthol. The solution of formaldehyde the author uses consists of: Formaldehyde (40 per cent.), 1 dram; alcohol and water, of each 2 drams. As to the relative efficiency of the above-mentioned substances, formaldehyde takes the first place, but it causes considerable burning and sometimes even inflammatory reaction, and must be applied several times in succession. Tincture of iodine leaves a stain, produces desquamation of the skin and can, therefore, not be used very well on exposed portions of the body. For ordinary cases the application of alcohol or eau de cologne with menthol will, therefore, be found more satisfactory.—*Merck's Archives*.