

bacilli to the bottom. Then he pours off the fluid, retaining the sediment, parts of which he takes out with a platinum needle and rubs them fine on a cover-glass. When the preparation is dry he passes it through a flame, stains it with a carbolised solution of fuchsine, and then bleaches it with 25 per cent. sulphuric acid. If there are any tubercle bacilli they remain red, and are thus distinguishable under the microscope. Even a single bacillus is discoverable in this way, whereas the older methods yielded a positive result only if there were many.—*The Lancet*.

**HOT WATER IN ACNE OF THE FACE.**—Hot water applied twice or three times a day for about five minutes is one of the most reliable local remedies which we possess for the treatment of acne of the face. To derive the full benefit from the effects of this simple remedy, it is necessary that the physician, and through him the patient, should be thoroughly familiar with the proper method of using it. The water should be very hot, so hot, in fact, that it can hardly be borne by the patient. Care should of course be taken not to scald the face, but if the water is only warm instead of really hot, more harm than good will be produced. The face should not be washed, rubbed or bathed with hot water, as is so frequently done, but a small portion of the diseased area of the face should be soaked with it for a very short time only. The heat of the water which is brought in contact with the skin is deeply dissipated for a moment and causes an intense but transitory local hyperæmia. This is exactly what we want to produce. If the hot water is allowed to act on the skin for too long a time, say more than a minute, or if the application is renewed at two short intervals, an acute inflammatory condition is added to the disease already existing. It is sufficient to go over the effected parts twice in one sitting, and the entire operation need not take more than three to five minutes. A handkerchief or a piece of soft linen is commonly used to convey the hot water to the face. I use for this purpose a very small glass holder, which I have constructed. Since this little instrument, which I have named "Thermophor," has proved itself very useful and convenient, I shall take the liberty of shortly describing it here. The instrument consists of handle and head. The latter is nothing else than an ordinary test tube. About half of this test tube is filled with cold water. A thick pad of absorbent cotton is thickly stuffed into the opening of the tube. The holder is then reversed, and the water inside the tube allowed to soak the cotton. The latter is thus kept in place by dint of the weight and adhesion of the water. During these few preparatory steps water has been brought to the boiling point in a small vessel on a stove, or over a gas or alcohol lamp. The holder with cotton is dip-

ped into hot water, left in it for a few minutes and then carefully carried to the affected portion of the face. The advantages of the "thermophor" are manifold. It saves the patient's hands from coming in contact with the hot water; it renders possible the use of water of high temperature, and makes it easy to confine the action of the heat to a limited portion of the diseased area. Besides, it is clean, handy and cheap. Not only plain, but also medicated hot water may be used in the manner described above. Hot solutions of boric acid, bicarbonate of soda, salicylic acid, resorcin etc., are all very serviceable. I have had excellent results from the so-called "lotio alba," to which resorcin is added, according to the following formula:

R.—Zinc. sulf.

Potass. sulfuret., . . . . . āā 3j.

Aq. rosar., . . . . . 3 iv.

Dissolve each of the ingredients in water, mix and add resorcin, 3j.

S.—Lotion. Shake well.

This lotion is to be used hot at night and cold in the morning.—Frederick J. Levisur, *N. Y. Med. Rec.*

**TREATMENT OF HÆMORRHOIDS BY DILATATION OF THE SPHINCTER ANI.**—Dilatation of the sphincter may not in a surgical sense, be worthy of the name "operation." If such is the case, I advise the "family doctor" to appropriate it, for, with the multiplied and multiplying specialties devoted to diseases affecting all organs and tissues between the fields of the alienist and chiropodist, inclusive, there is a very limited territory in which he may practice. My confidence in the superiority of treatment by dilatation was secured by the same nature of accident which convinced the French surgeons—that is, by observing the complete and permanent disappearance of a number of large internal pile tumors in the case of a gentleman who, in connection with his other trouble, developed an anal fissure, dilatation for the cure of which also cured his hæmorrhoids.

The dilatation of the sphincter is as follows: Hook the thumb of your left hand and the middle finger of your right so as to include both sphincters on opposite sides of the anus and gradually but forcibly separate your hand until all resistance ceases, the object being to paralyze the muscles completely. It is commonly advised to oppose the thumbs, but in a great many cases the resistance will be found so strong that it will be impossible to separate the thumbs a sufficient distance. I have in some cases found the sphincters from long contraction developed to such a degree as to give the impression of pulling on an iron ring. I have never known any bad results follow from the procedure. No after-treatment is necessary, except in cases where there is complaint of smart-