

*From Lyon Medical.*

INDICATIONS FOR OPIUM AND FOR DIGITALIS  
IN ASYSTOLISM IN VARIOUS DISEASES  
OF THE HEART.

Two patients in M. Gubler's ward presented, —the one, a good example of the efficacy of opium in asystolism in certain diseases of the heart, especially when the lesion is situated in the aortic orifice; and the other a specimen of the cases in which opium would rather be pernicious, whilst the preparations of digitalis have been found to answer very well. (We omit the narration of the cases, being merely typical examples—the one of double aortic affection, the other mitral regurgitant.) The conclusion deduced is: "Thus opium would rather be pernicious in mitral affections of the heart, whilst it is often useful in disease of the aortic orifice. Dr. Huchard, who was the first to publish these facts in the *Journal de Therapeutique*, has invented a rather ingenious theory to explain them. According to him, opium produces congestion of the nervous centres, and digitalis, on the contrary, produces a local anæmia of them. But asystolism may occur in two opposite ways: Either from defects of nervous incitation of the preumogastries, the result of an insufficient supply of the nutritive and exciting fluid to the encephalon, or, on the contrary, from what the ancients would have called *oppressio virium*. In aortic lesion, whether consisting in stenosis, or in insufficiency, the arterial circulation becomes enfeebled, and the various organs, at the same time, receive less red blood: this then is the case for the employment of opium, which increases the supply of blood to the brain."

In mitral lesions, on the other hand, it is the return of venous blood which is interfered with; the viscera, and notably the encephalon, are full of it. Digitalis ought to succeed.—*Gazette des Hospitaux*.

In the *Revue de Therapeutique Medico-Chirurgicale* mention is made of a death having occurred from attempts to dilate a narrowed os uteri by means of sponge tents. Peritoneal effusion, and an abscess containing an ounce and a-half of pus beside the neck of the uterus, were found *post-mortem*.

TREATMENT OF PRURITUS VULVÆ.

Dr. Castellir has employed with success in this very troublesome affection, whether the woman be pregnant or not, the following treatment.—

- 1st. Tepid lotions of an infusion of mallows.
- 2nd. The application, three or four times a day, of an ointment composed of
 

Calomel.....	1 to 2 drachms.
Camphor .....	1 scruple.
Starch, in an impalpable powder .....	$\frac{1}{2}$ drachm.
Sweet Lard.....	1 ounce.

 Sometimes he adds 10 or 12 drops of laudanum.—*Revista de Ciencias Medicas*.

ANTI-ASTHMATICAL CIGARETTES.

Belladonna Leaves.....	5 grammes.
Stramonium " .....	5 "
Digitalis " .....	5 "
Sage " .....	5 "
Tincture of Benzoin .....	40 "
Nitrate of Potassium.....	75 "
Water.....	1000 "

A decoction is made of all the leaves. Filter and add the tincture of benzoin and nitrate of potassium. Into this liquid separately are immersed sheets of blotting paper. At the end of twenty-four hours these sheets are dried and cut into squares about four by three, which are rolled into cigarettes.—*N. G.*, in *L'Union Medicale*.

EXAMINATION OF URINE FOR BILE.

BY OTTOMAR ROSENBEACH, M.D.

On account of the uncertainty and the short duration of the reaction introduced by Gmelin's as a test for bile, the author has introduced a new process, which is exceedingly useful for demonstration and is altogether a most satisfactory test. The urine containing bile is first filtered through clean white filtering paper, the latter will remain coloured intensely brown. The filtering paper is then taken and a drop of concentrated slightly fuming nitric acid is applied to its inner surface. The part touched by the acid is first yellow, then yellowish-red with a border of violet, then on the extreme periphery an intensely blue ring shows itself, finally the whole surface becomes emerald green.