

action of exodin. Ebstein obtained some chemically pure samples of all three, and systematically tested each on a number of persons, including himself. He found that even when given in doses of 1 gram rufigallic acid-hexamethyl-ether has no action at all. The action was compared with that of exodin in the same persons, and it was therefore proved that this substance is not the active principle. Next he tried the diacetyl compound, containing the four groups of methyl-ether; 1 gram again was given, and in one case it acted freely, in another it acted weakly, and in two not at all. In one case, after 1 gram had failed, 2 produced a copious motion. While there can be no doubt that this substance possesses a purgative action, it is clear that the action of exodin is far stronger, the dose of the pure chemical being much larger than the dose necessary to produce the same effect of exodin. Lastly he tried the pentamethyl-ether compound. This substance has a purgative action, but it also has the property of causing griping in persons suffering from constipation, which exodin does not possess. It therefore appears that exodin owes its peculiar action on the lucky mixture of diacetyl-rufigallic acid-tetramethyl ether and acetyl-rufigallic acid-pentamethyl-ether. The author praises the mild action of exodin, and says that he has been able to prove by experience that when exodin is repeated in doses of 1 to 1½ gram does not act, the best treatment is by means of large oil enemata.—*The British Medical Journal*.

A New Method of Accurately Examining the Hymen in Medico-Legal Cases.—By DR. J. L. LOUDON.

In the case of virgins in whom rape is suspected, the author advises recourse to the following procedure in order to determine the exact nature and degree of mutilation of the hymen.

The patient being in the lithotomy position and swabs from the vagina (for examination for semen) having been taken, the parts are freely treated with a 20 per cent. solution of cocain. . . . An ordinary soft red rubber catheter is then taken, and over its point for about one inch or one and a half inches there is placed an ordinary india rubber condom, which is tightly bound into the stem of the catheter by a few turns of thread. . . . This arrangement is gently passed into the vagina; the point is then expanded either by inflation or by injecting a small quantity of warm water. . . . In this way the whole hymeneal margin is fully exposed to view, so that any interruption in its integrity is at once detected, however slight it may be.—*Lancet and Post Graduate*.