

5. In hospital out-patient practice he prescribes five grains thrice daily in half a drachm of glycerine and water, and if not sufficient to produce effects, four times daily. Elsewhere he gives the same dose every two, three or four hours, according to the urgency of the case.

6. There does not seem to be much danger in large doses of croton-chloral. Dr. Ringer has given it to a patient in five grain doses every hour for a fortnight, and Dr. Liebreich a sleeping draught containing a drachm and a half of the remedy.

7. Usually no unpleasant effects are observed after ordinary doses, though giddiness, headache, and vomiting have occurred in a few cases. If taken immediately after meals, emesis will usually cease.—(*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*)

A NEW MATERIAL FOR DILATATION OF THE CERVIX UTERI.—(*Med. Record*, July 14th, 1877.) Dr. Sussdorff, after an experience of two years in the use of tents made of the root of the Tupelo tree, heartily recommends them to the profession as being far superior to sea-tangle or sponge. The tree is a species of *Nyssa* indigenous to the United States, and of the five different kinds the *Nyssa Aquatica* is to be selected for making the best tents. It is a Southern species and grows in swamps and wet places of Georgia and Florida. The roots are the parts used, and though very heavy when first dug up, after being cut into smaller pieces and exposed to dry heat they become dry and light as cork. Messrs. Tiemann & Co. of New York, now prepare them compressed to a graduated scale. The advantages claimed for these tents are, that: 1. They are easily introduced, being smooth and firm. 2. They will not easily fall out of place as they are very light and soon absorb moisture sufficient to retain their place. 3. They are probably of an antiseptic nature themselves, as they do not decompose the fluids with which they are in contact; have none of the offensiveness always accompanying the sponge or sea-tangle, and being purely vegetable, are not likely to produce septic poisoning or local irritation. 4. The rapidity with which they will expand when in contact with the tissues and secretions of the uterus is perhaps one of their chief advantages. This rapidity can be controlled by selecting tents compressed to different degrees; thus one compressed to one-fourth of its original size, would not dilate so quickly as one reduced to one-tenth of the same.—(*Detroit Medical Journal.*)

HYDATID TUMOR OF THE KIDNEY SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY ASPIRATION.—Bradbury. (*British Med. Journal*, 1877, Oct. 6.) A boy, aged 8, was admitted into the hospital on July 5th, 1876. His only complaint was of an enlarged abdomen. A large tense elastic swelling occupied

almost the whole of the left half of the abdomen, which was absolutely dull on percussion.

Superiorly the percussion-dullness extended to within one inch and a half of the nipple in the nipple-line, and tracing it to the right, it became separated from the liver-dullness (right lobe) by a band of well-marked resonance. It then passed down, about one inch and a half to two inches to the right of the mesial line and lost itself below in the dullness of the (full) bladder. On tracing it to the left, the dullness reached as high as the left rib in the axillary line, but at this level it did not quite extend to the spine. The whole of the left hypochondrium was filled with the tumor, and there was complete dullness down to Poupart's ligament. The percussion was tympanitic over the rest of the abdomen. At the upper part of the tumor the "repercussion thrill" could be obtained. The heart's apex beat immediately beneath the nipple, just under the fourth rib; heart and lung sounds, urine and liver were normal.

On July 6th, the needle of an aspirator was introduced into the tumor, and forty-four ounces of hydatid fluid were drawn off. No hooklets were found in it. After the operation the boy vomited several times, had slight fever, and an eruption of urticaria; but no tenderness of the abdomen. The urine was found to contain albumen, due to the presence of pus. July 15th, the abdomen was enlarging again. When the boy was made to sit up in bed he complained of pain in the loins, and four of the lumbar spines were found to be prominent, and the skin over them reddened. They were very painful on pressure. The tumor was aspirated again, and thirty-one and a half ounces of a greenish opalescent fluid were withdrawn, which in the latter stage of the operation, was flaky and apparently purulent. After standing, the fluid deposited two ounces of pus. Under the microscope, pus-cells and the heads of numerous echinococci armed with hooklets were detected. The boy vomited again several times after the operation, but no urticaria followed the second puncture. On July 25th and 26th small cysts with hooklets were found in the urinary sediment. From this time the patient became gradually better. In November he was discharged from the hospital and under observation for some months. When last seen, he was quite well, the abdomen being perfectly normal and the urine free from pus and albumen.—(*Chicago Medical Journal.*)

OPEN AIR TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS.—Our object should be to find for our patients the climate so mild that their lives may be passed in open air.

In the Hawaiian Islands we have such a climate, which, in its average temperature and in equability, may be said to be perfect; where consumptives can literally live in the open air without fear of those