

**INFLUENCE OF WATER ON OBESITY.**—Dr. Lorenzen, of Erlangen, says the Berlin correspondent of the *Medical Press and Circular*, has been discussing the influence of liquids on obesity. The first experiment was made on himself. For a period of nine years he drank a large quantity of Erlangen beer daily. On stopping the liquid his weight fell fourteen pounds in seven days. If, however, more water was taken, but without alcohol the weight increased again. Within five weeks he reduced himself to the extent of twenty-three pounds, the chest measurement diminished by two and three-fourths inches, and that of the abdomen by five and one-fourth inches, and the difficulties attending respiration disappeared. Similar experiments carried out on colleagues who were likewise heavy men, had similar results. The disappearance of fat on the withholding of fluids he endeavours to explain on the hypothesis that the cells whose province it is to decompose albumen, when a large quantity of fluid is taken, expend part of their energy in the combustion of fat. The fat they consume is replaced by fat from the tissues.

**SACCHARIN IN THE TREATMENT OF THRUSH.**—The antifermentative action of saccharin suggested to Dr. Fourrier, of Compiègne, its use in the treatment of the frequent and troublesome affection due to the presence of the *oidium albicans*. He has tried it in ten cases of thrush following on measles, applying a solution of saccharin by means of a brush. In eight cases the milky patches disappeared in from twenty-four to thirty-six hours; in only two cases did they persist as long as three days, and the delay was then probably due to imperfect mopping out of the mouth. He made a solution of one part of saccharin in fifty of alcohol, and used a teaspoonful of this alcoholic solution in half a glass of water, applying it four or five times daily. He points out that a stronger solution is apt to prove irritating, and is therefore to be avoided.—*Medical Press and Circular*.

**ANTIPYRIN IN NERVOUS AFFECTIONS OF THE EYE.**—Dr. R. Rampoldi (*Annali di*

*Ottalmologia*), in a case of amblyopia from secondary absolute glaucoma, associated with occlusion of the pupil and of the anterior chamber by total posterior synechia, performed an iridectomy, without any relief to the pain. As the patient refused to submit to enucleation, and as his suffering was intense, antipyrin was given in doses of three grammes daily. After the second dose the pain entirely ceased, and did not recur.

**CHOREA CURED BY ANTIPYRIN.**—Legroux (*Berl. kl. Woch.*) considers that antipyrin in doses of fifteen grains three times a day is the most effectual remedy in chorea. He thus cured six cases within a month. Grun (*Centrl. fur Nervenheilk.*, 148) and Lilienfeld (*Centrl. fur die Med. Wissensch.*, 1888, 748) also report on the good effect of this drug.—*London Med. Recorder*.

Dr. Clouston, of Edinburgh, has published his experience with paraldehyde. He likes it far better than any other pure hypnotic. Very often the patient is asleep in five minutes after the drug is given. It is very rare that it produces disagreeable effects. It does not interfere with the appetite for food next morning, nor disturb the stomach or bowels. In some cases it restores to the brain the habit of sleep, and it may be discontinued without leaving a drug habit. The doctor found it of no use, but rather injurious, when given in the day time. The dose varies largely according to the case. Too small doses are apt to excite the patient. He begins with 40 minims to ʒi. and goes up to ʒii. in ordinary cases. In very many cases of confirmed insomnia, in melancholia, and in acute mania, three, or even four, drachms are required.

A writer in the *London Med. Press* states that when an impassable urethral stricture exists, and the surgeon, after performing external urethrotomy, is unable to find the urethral opening, suprapubic tapping can be done, and the bladder catheterized from behind, forwards. The sound is passed forwards to the stricture, another instrument passed from the front, and the intervening stricture-tissue incised.