

capsules containing three grains, equivalent to an ounce and a quarter of oil. It does not seem to excite any digestive disturbances, and seems to promote appetite and act more promptly than cod liver oil. The oil freed from morrhual acts merely as fatty matter.—*Cincinnati Lancet and Clinic, from Pharmaceutische Post.*

### TREATMENT OF PROFUSE HÆMOP-TYSIS.

I should like to say at once that my experience with regard to the use of ergotine coincides exactly with that of Dr. West, as detailed in the *Journal* of January 16th, and I thoroughly agree with him as to why it fails in cases of profuse hæmoptysis. I have only found this remedy of use in those cases where, in all probability, the hæmoptysis would have ceased without its administration. On the other hand, I have so frequently seen it increase the hæmorrhage, that I have for some years discontinued its use, and trusted to remedies which lower vascular tension, such as nitrite of amyl, or preferably, glonoine, which, although rather longer in producing its physiological effects, continues its action for some hours, and also has this advantage, that it occasionally produces nausea and diarrhoea, both useful desiderata in such cases. These preparations have often proved of the greatest value.

Another remedy of great efficacy, which was not mentioned by Dr. West, is the internal administration of a good dose of cayenne pepper, half a teaspoonful in warm water. This comes under the class of drugs which, as Dr. West says, create a temporary diversion of blood to other parts, and give time for the formation of a blood-clot, and consequent cessation of bleeding from the blood-vessel. I first saw this remedy used about fifteen years ago, when I was attending a Scotch packman, who suffered at times from profuse hæmoptysis. He said he had used it, when occasion required, for some years; and I can testify to its efficacy. Many may think this a very heroic remedy (and it certainly requires some fortitude on the part of the patient); but I have never seen any unpleasant effects result. Of late years, I have generally

given good doses of capsicine in place of it, which may be given in the form of a pill; but this does not act so rapidly as the cayenne pepper in water.

Another homely remedy, which I have seen used with success, has been a salt-and-water emetic; but this is not so certain as the former, although easier to swallow.—*Dr. W. E. Green, in Brit. Med. Jour.*

### INFLUENCE OF LIGHT ON THE VEGETATION AND VIRULENCE OF BACILLUS ANTHRACIS.—

M. Arloing, in the *Lyon Medical*, concludes an exhaustive paper as follows: Gas light is harmful in a slight degree to the vegetation of the *Bacillus Anthracis*. Sunlight in summer rapidly suppresses the vegetability of the spores if its rays penetrate easily into the midst of the liquid which holds them in suspension.

Sunlight gradually diminishes the vegetability of the mycelium and transforms the cultures into a series of vaccines as certainly as heat.

These effects are produced by the entire lights, and not by certain of its constituent rays. They are in proportion to the intensity of the rays and to the transparency of the medium. Light is a very important biological agent in the life of the infinitely small.

Light is probably a faction of the attenuation of many viruses, if not of all.

LACTIC ACID AS A CAUSTIC.—Dr. Moselig has applied lactic acid as a caustic in superficial tumors and growths. Five or six applications are sufficient. The healthy surrounding parts are protected by a layer of felt—the acid is then applied by repeated inunctions, or by laying a piece of cotton imbibed with it over the tumor. He covers this with a piece of cloth or gummed paper, and over all a bandage. He uses a paste composed of equal parts of lactic and pure salicylic acid. It is allowed to remain in apposition 12 hours. Then the part is carefully washed and cold water dressing applied. In 24 to 48 hours the application is repeated, and proceeds until the pathological tissue has disappeared. Pain continues for some hours but is easily supportable. The cicatrix is smooth and soft.—*Revista Medico-Quirurgica.*