

carbonate of soda combined with carbonate of lime, magnesia, and charcoal. Iron is beneficial because it forms an iron sulphide with the hydrosulphuric acid in the intestine. Hyposulphite of sodium has been of use in checking fæcal fermentation; naphthol might serve the same purpose.—*Med. News.*

INEBRIETY AND MARRIAGE.—Dr. T. D. Crothers, in an editorial in the *Quarterly Journal of Inebriety*, says: Public sentiment is shocked at the marriage of lunatics, and yet every day the lunatic inebriate is permitted to marry, and persons are ready to join themselves in such a contract for the purpose of curing them. In a recent murder case it appeared from the evidence that the murderer's father was married when intoxicated, and died a few years after by suicide. The murderer was the first child, and was a low, paroxysmal drunkard, who had spent years in prison for crimes of drunken violence, and finally killed a passing stranger. In another case the courts refused to grant a woman a divorce who had recently married and found her husband an inebriate; a few months later this husband killed her in a drunken frenzy. In a certain family of entailed wealth there are living to-day, in the third generation, ten direct descendants who are feeble-minded, idiotic, and insane; all clearly traceable to the marriage of an inebriate ancestor. The failure of the law to prevent and regulate such marriages, and the delusion that inebriety is a *vice* that is under the control of the victim, is one of the great obstacles toward social and legal reform. The efforts to raise the poor and degenerate inebriate and his family are practically of no value as long as marriage with inebriates is permitted. Recently the legislature of the State of Victoria in Australia has passed a law which gives a wife the right of divorce if the husband is found to be an habitual drunkard. If after marriage she discovers that he is an inebriate she can also get a divorce. The husband can do the same with a wife if she is proven to be an inebriate. This is a clear anticipation of the higher sentiment which demands relief from the barbarous law which would hold marriage with an inebriate as fixed and permanent.—*Am. Pract. and News.*

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS WITH BORACIC ACID.—For the past five years, Dr. Gaucher has been studying the action of boracic acid on pulmonary tuberculosis. He has recently made public the results which so far have accrued from his researches. He first of all determined by means of experiments on animals the toxic limits of the acid when administered internally, and he found that this stood at the ratio of about a gramme to a kilogramme of the animal's weight. As to its subsequent elimination from the system, he found that this took place very readily and even rapidly

by way of the renal secretion; there was therefore little fear of any accumulation or tardy cumulative action. But, what was an equally important and desirable result, he found that the boracic acid was also eliminated appreciably through the expectoration; the sputum of tubercular patients whom he had subjected to this treatment was found to be very freely charged with the acid. Some of his experiments are not only interesting, but certainly encouraging in their ascertained results. For example, he took two or three rabbits and injected into their lungs through a needle syringe a few drops of a solution of pure tubercular culture. In this way he set up a local tuberculosis which became caseous but not generalized. Some of the animals soon succumbed to pulmonary tuberculosis, and the surviving ones were shortly after destroyed. Well-marked phthisis was found in all post mortem. He next repeated his inoculations on healthy rabbits in precisely the same manner, but he now fed the animals on bran mixed with boracic acid. After a time these also were sacrificed, but, contrary to what he found in his initial experiments, their lungs were quite free from any tubercular lesion, neither was any found elsewhere. It is submitted that, although these experiments on rabbits may not be altogether conclusive as to a like action of boracic acid on human tubercular subjects, they are at least—in the face of the enormous mortality from phthisis and hopelessness of therapeutic methods in general in this disease—worthy of serious attention and more extended trial. As to clinical results, so far as it has been tried, the boracic acid treatment has been found to bring about a notable diminution in the expectoration, which became more fluid and less purulent. Considerable time is, of course, necessary before speaking of remote or final results, but in the cases in which the treatment has been tried, and which have been under observation for a considerable period, it may be said that in general they improved in every way, while the tubercular trouble in the lung appeared to be at a standstill. The dose administered in these cases was one gramme in divided doses in the twenty-four hours. This, on the weight theory, must be considered insufficient. Taking the average weight of a patient to be sixty kilogrammes, and putting the limit of dose at twenty centigrammes for every three kilos, four grammes of the acid should be given per day, the dose being, of course, graduated up to this amount. Boracic acid will be found as a rule to agree well with the stomach, and is easily taken; it is not caustic, has no disagreeable taste, and in some cases was found even to check the diarrhœa when this existed.—Paris Correspondent, in *Lancet*.

OINTMENT FOR SYPHILITIC ERUPTIONS.—The *Medical Free Press* says that there was in use in