

cured. He offers his conclusions not so much on the basis of these cases as upon a very large personal experience, and states positively that the judicious use of bichloride of mercury in cases of acute gonorrhœal urethritis is attended with better results in subduing the painful and disagreeable features of the disease than is any other agent. The recovery is more rapid and permanent, and the frequency of inflammatory complications is very greatly reduced.—*Therap. Gaz.*

**TREATMENT OF DIABETES WITH MORPHINE AND CODEINE.**—According to Federigo Gori, in the *Gazzetta degli ospitali*, the diet prescribed by Cantani, while it acts favorable at times upon the glycosuria of relatively recent cases, is not capable of suppressing the disease. This diet is sometimes borne badly; but in general this is not the case if lactic acid in large doses (150 grains) is employed at the same time. Both morphine and codeine exert a favorable influence upon the glycosuria; but whereas the former may cause the disease to disappear completely as much cannot be said for codeine. The effect of morphine is always manifest, but is more energetic when the patient is upon an absolute meat diet; the same is true of codeine when the patient is upon a diet largely of meat, but when on the rigorous diet of Cantani its effect is doubtful. The effect of codeine, and probably that of morphine also, though with less intensity, persists after the administration of the drug has been suspended.

Morphine undoubtedly exerts its good effect, when the patient is upon a mixed diet, by not only removing the glycosuria, but also by increasing the body-weight and improving the subjective feeling of the patient. Both morphine and codeine have, besides their influence upon an existing glycosuria, an inhibitory action, as they prevent the increase or the return of the sugar, although such substances as favor glycosuria are swallowed in relatively large quantities. This action stronger in the case of morphine, which may give valuable aid when it is desired to change from a meat to a mixed diet. Neither the employment of morphine nor codeine causes disturbance of any kind in the general nutrition, but it exerts rather a helpful influence and favors the increase of body-weight; it always improves the subjective condition of the patient. It appears that the diabetic condition *per se*, independently, or nearly independently, of the diuresis, favors the tolerance of the two alkloids.—*Deutsche Medizinal-Zeitung, Therap. Gaz.*

**EPHEDRA AS A REMEDY FOR RHEUMATISM.**—Very recently Dr. Betchine, of St. Petersburg, has reported in the *Revue de Therapeutique* his studies upon the antirheumatic properties of *Ephedra vulgaris*, or *Ephedra distachya*. The

plant is widely distributed over Russia, and has long enjoyed a great reputation among the peasants as an anti-rheumatic and antisymphilitic remedy. Dr. Betchine has employed a decoction of four grammes of the powdered bark and root in twenty grammes of water, the dose of which is a desertspoonful every two hours. The remedy appears to be particularly useful in acute articular and muscular rheumatism. In from twenty-four to twenty-eight hours the pain is relieved, the temperature is reduced, and the pulse and respiration are quieted. In about eight or ten days the patient may be said to be cured, and the pericarditis that sometimes exists disappears with the other rheumatic manifestations. Chronic rheumatism is not so favorably influenced by the drug, and the author recommends it only in cases accompanied with more or less fever. The remedy possesses laxative, diuretic, and diaphoretic properties, to which its favorable influence upon this disease may be attributed. Professor Nagai, of Tokio, has isolated the alkaloid ephedrine from *Ephedra vulgaris*. This injected into dogs and cats, produces general convulsions, mydriasis, and exophthalmia. It is an efficient mydriatic, but has not yet been put to practical use.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*

**MENIERE'S VERTIGO AND THE SEMICIRCULAR CANALS.**—The experiments of Flourens, which seemed to attribute to the semicircular canals the rôle of maintaining the equilibrium of the body, have been controverted by others to such an extent as to make it appear doubtful whether that part of the labyrinth is the seat of the lesion which determines the so-called vertigo of Ménière. The peculiar character of the vomiting, the fact that the latter symptom may occur suddenly without nausea, after irritation of the membrana tympani, the intimate connections between the pneumogastric and the auditory nerve at their origin, renders it more probable that the vertigo and cardiac symptoms are due to a reflex action in the pneumogastric dependent upon a lesion in some portion of the auditory nerve. The term Ménière's disease serves more frequently to mark ignorance of the lesion which occasions a series of symptoms often analogous but which are under the influence of very different causes.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

**SUBINVOLUTION OF THE UTERUS.**—Prof. Barton Cook Hirst, of the University of Pennsylvania, recently gave the following as best combination to use:

R—Strychnine sulphatis . . . . . gr.  $\frac{1}{10}$ .  
Quinine sulphatis . . . . . gr. ij.  
Ext. ergote . . . . . gr. j.

M. ft. pil. No. 1. Sig.—At one dose; to be repeated thrice daily.