

came next; and lastly clergymen, who produced the smallest number of eminent men and the largest number of idiots and feeble-minded. The lawyers gave origin to six times as many more eminent men as the clergy. The clergy gave origin to six times as many more idiots and feeble-minded as the lawyers.—*N. Y. Med. Record.*

IODOFORM IN THE TREATMENT OF GONORRHOEA.

In an interesting communication to *Le Progrès Médical*, M. Thiéry extols in high terms the use of iodoform in the abortive treatment of gonorrhœa. He states that he feels a certain timidity in presenting a new therapeutical agent for this most troublesome disease after so many others have been tried, accepted, and rejected; and yet, impressed with the fact—based upon researches of Neisser and others—of the microbial origin of the disease, he was surprised that among all the antiseptics employed, such as corrosive sublimate, carbolic acid, boracic acid, resorcin, etc., iodoform should not have been included,—an antiseptic used daily in the practice of surgery.

Corrosive sublimate coagulates the albuminoids, forms non-antiseptic bases with them, and thus exerts but a passing and superficial influence upon the germs. Nitrate of silver acts upon the microbes, but at the same time seriously affects the mucous membrane. Iodoform, besides its antiseptic value, is readily absorbed wherever the mucous membrane is denuded, and is also decidedly analgesic,—two important qualities which adapt it specially to the treatment of gonorrhœa. Its odor can easily be disguised by a little oil of eucalyptus, vanilline, etc.

The purpose of the abortive treatment of gonorrhœa at the present time is to destroy the gonococcus. This accomplished, the inflammation will readily subside with appropriate measures. In an examination of thirty-eight cases it was found that in the pus passed during the period from the first to the fifth day the gonococci were comparatively few in number. They increased from the fifth to the fifteenth day. The maximum was attained from the eighth to

the tenth day, while after the fifteenth they began rapidly to decline, sometimes remaining, however, as late as the end of the third week. These figures are important as showing the most favorable time for the use of the antiseptic injection. Antisepsis will be best accomplished during the first four days.

M. Thiéry reports six cases treated with the iodoform injection with the most gratifying results. In his *résumé* he states that as to iodoform-intoxication it seems impossible. In the employment of iodoform alone, its elimination can easily be verified by an examination of the urine. In one case only did the patient complain of the taste of iodine in the mouth. Its presence in the saliva could never be detected by means of the test. In its use there were no other uncomfortable sensations, and yet as many as twenty-nine injections had been given in a period of twenty-eight days. On the other hand, its action is safe, rapid, and positive, the microbes quickly disappearing, sometimes being entirely absent by the eighth day.

As failure in the treatment of gonorrhœa occurs usually on account of the patient's ignorance in managing the injection, M. Thiéry recommends that the physician always attend to this part of the treatment himself. He uses as the injected material iodoform *porphyryzed* as completely as possible, and simply suspended in the oil of sweet almonds. Before making the injection, the urethra should be gently washed out, to remove as much of the pus as possible. Micturition just before the injection is the best means of accomplishing this result and avoiding any backward flow of the pus into the bladder. The olive-shaped nozzle of the syringe should be introduced just within the meatus. About two grammes of the liquid is then thrown into the urethra, and retained there by the patient holding his finger over the meatus for about twenty minutes. A strict and temperate diet should be used during the period of the injections.—*Med. Times.*

MARTINEAU'S REMEDY FOR DIABETES, to which we have already referred, is prepared as follows: Carbonate of lithium, 3 grains; arseniate of sodium, $\frac{1}{10}$ grain; carbonic-acid water, 2 pints. Effect the solution under pressure.