

administration of these drugs more than offsets the temporary good accomplished by their use. He mentions a very prominent congressman whose life, in his opinion, was cut short by the administration of morphine hypodermically in the case of pneumonitis. Dr. Shade states that he still prescribes morphine, but very seldom, as he finds it much safer to use papine. Papine, in his opinion, possesses all the desirable qualities of opium with the bad qualities eliminated. Some of the brightest minds of the present age are now being devoted to the development of a therapy in which the primitive bad effects of many important drugs are eliminated. Where the therapeutic action of morphine or opium is desired, it would seem to be a safe procedure to give papine a trial.

IRREGULAR MENSTRUATION AND TREATMENT.

By E. C. WILLEY, M.D., Louisville, Ky.

Practitioners of medicine are consulted by no class of patients who display greater solicitude than those who have amenorrhea.

In the popular mind failure of the menses to appear is supposed to be due either to pregnancy or tuberculosis, and either may cause a degree of anxiety that is truly intense.

The term amenorrhea is used to mean the total absence of the menstrual discharge, or a marked deficiency in the quantity of the flow. Amenorrhea may be physiological and pathological. During pregnancy the absence of the menstrual discharge is, of course, physiological and demands no consideration in this article. When pathological, the causes of amenorrhea may be said in general to be due to the following:

(1) Taking cold, at or near the menstrual epoch. (2) severe mental perturbation, as fright sorrow, or great elation of spirit. (3) It may be symptomatic in several affections, as tuberculosis, anaemia, chlorosis, syphilis, typhoid fever, nephritis pelvic, peritonitis, and other morbid conditions. (4) Obesity. (5) Luxurious life, or overtaxing the nervous system. (6) Stenosis or atresia of the cervical canal, or imperfect development of the tubes, ovaries or uterus. (7) Vicarious menstruation may make the condition obscure, there being a discharge at the regular monthly period from the nose, lungs, bladder, stomach, nipple or other part.

The treatment of amenorrhea must comprehend attention to general considerations, and special indications must be remembered in the various expressions of amenorrhea.

The treatment was in a word, comprehend remedies and measures which are indicated by the etiological factors present in every case which comes up for treatment. When the amenorrhea is caused by having