

tincture of iron, ʒj; bicarbonate of soda (or potash), ʒj; tepid water, teacupfull. Mix.—The sesqui-oxide of iron is immediately formed in a solution of chloride of sodium (common salt). Give this mixture almost *ad libitum*. It is a perfect antidote to arsenic.

#### HYPODERMIC INJECTION OF MORPHIA.—

Dr. H. Gibbons sums up, in the *Pacific Med. and Surg. Journal*, his views of the proper use of the hypodermic injection of morphia, as follows: 1. Avoid it in congestion and inflammatory conditions of the brain. 2. Avoid it in pulmonary congestion, and where dyspnea is not the result of spasm. 3. Avoid it in acute inflammatory affections of the heart and pericardium. 4. Avoid it in high febrile excitement. 5. Avoid puncturing a vein. 6. Avoid a deep puncture, unless there is a special purpose to be accomplished by depositing the narcotic deep in the tissues. 7. Introduce the liquid slowly and not by sudden projection. 8. Require the patient to lie down and remain quiet after the operation. I may add, it is the remedy, par excellence, for the paroxysm of spasmodic asthma from whatever cause.

#### RETENTION AND INCONTINENCE OF URINE.

Retention may be due to congenital contraction of the meatus which requires surgical enlargement of the orifice (2) to phymosis, where the preputial orifice is very small, (3) to stone in the bladder. It is more difficult to find a stone in the bladder when distended with urine than empty. Great care is requisite in sounding a child. Incontinence is due (1) to rectal complaints (2) to a tight foreskin (3) to a small congenital meatus (4) to calculus impacted in the urethra; causes 3 and 4 are not usually sufficiently attended to. Stone impacted in the urethra may cause retention or incontinence according to its location. A stone so impacted does not cause so much pain and discomfort as might be imagined. Milk dieting, and the use of belladonna in nocturnal and strychnia and iron in diurnal incontinence are indicated.—(*Mr. Teevan in British Med. Journal.*)

SILPHIUM CYRENAICUM.—The *Allgem. Wiener Med. Zeitung*, No. 53, 1878, contains an article on a drug which seems to have been known many centuries ago, but which has only been analysed and officially acknowledged in our times. It is the silphium Cyrenaicum, prepared by Messrs Dérode and Deffes, chemists in Paris, which is said to be very efficient in phthisis, catarrh of the lungs, cough, etc. It does not suddenly put a stop to these affections; but it diminishes the irritation in the throat which causes the cough; it reduces the action of the heart and lowers the temperature, thereby enabling both the patient and the physician to dispense with narcotics, which after a certain time lose their power, or, what is still worse, cause permanent injury to the nervous system and the brain. It is given in different forms, as pills, tincture, syrup, and glycerine.

THE ODOUR OF HAIR, FROM A MEDICO-LEGAL VIEW.—From the mere odour of a pair of hair it is easy, says M. Gallipe (*Soc. de Biol. Paris*), to tell whether the hair has been cut from the living body or has been shed. Hair dealers who are accustomed to it, are never deceived. The fallen hair has a dull aspect imputable to disease, and it is worked with difficulty. It has, so to speak, no odour. The hair of the Chinese presents a characteristic musk odour which is not due to any cosmetic, for the odour persists after the hair has been washed in pot ash. Regarded by transmitted light, Chinese hair has a red reflection. They are polyhedral on section; they are thus called in commerce square (carrés). According to M. Gallipe the hairs of an hysterical patient at the approach of the attack assume a special odour, invariably the same. In the last place, M. Gallipe points out the electric condition of certain hairs, which throw off still more electricity on friction. M. Paul Bert observed that the red reflection of black hairs goes to support the theory that red is a variety of black. When the hair grows white from age, this commences at the point and not at the base, unless there has been disease of the hair follicle. M. Malassez had even seen zebra hairs. In such cases the hair is projected first white, then black, and then white. This is a phenomenon of growth.—*Le Progrès Médical.*