

The persons on whom the experiments were tried were women from twenty to thirty years of age, in whom the vaginal mucous membrane was intact. The trials made in Prof. Peck's clinic gave the following results: iodide of potassium, used in a fifteen per cent. solution, was found in the urine two hours after its application, and was found in the same fluid twenty-four hours after the tampons had been removed. Ferrocyanide of potassium, in a five per cent. solution, was found in the urine three hours after application, and twenty-four hours after removal. Ferricyanide of potassium was used, and could be traced in the urine as ferrocyanide. Salicylic acid, dissolved with sodium phosphate, was found in urine three hours after application. Bromide of potassium, in a six-per-cent. solution, was found in urine three hours after application.

Iron was tried, in form of lactate and citrate, but was not found in the urine. It could not, however, be found in any quantity after the medicine had been taken into the stomach. Iron is found in the ash of normal urine, but it never appears to be present in the form of salt in solution. Lithium, in the form of chloride, was used, and was found in the urine two hours after its introduction. These experiments prove that medicine can be taken up through the vaginal mucous membrane. This fact may be of use to those engaged in gynecological practice, and also in cases when it is desirable not to give it by the stomach.—*Rundschau*.

POISONING BY SALICYLIC ACID.

A case of poisoning by salicylic acid has been reported through the *Central Medical Times*, as having occurred at Przegląd-Tekarski, in Posen. It has also been discussed in the Medical Society of Posen.

In February, 1876, a peasant was seized with acute rheumatism, which manifested itself in the left knee and ankle joints. The physician, in order to lessen the severe pain, gave him a hypodermic injection of one-sixth of a grain of morphia, and ordered for him six powders of salicylic acid,—one to be given every hour,—each powder containing about 13 grs. of the acid. Immediately after the first pow-

der, the patient began to perspire profusely, and continued constantly to increase perspiring. The patient's strength diminished so rapidly that his wife hesitated to give the fourth powder. The patient insisted on taking it, however, and immediately afterwards was seized with headache and vomiting, which continued during the whole night. He then became unconscious and groaned loudly. This state of unconsciousness only left him for a moment, when he turned to the doctor crying, "My head." All means used for his resuscitation were useless, and the patient died forty hours after he had taken the first powder. No *post-mortem* was made. It is not at all possible that this was a case of inflammation of the brain in connection with the rheumatism. All the symptoms indicated poisoning. By later investigations it was found that the salicylic acid used was old, and had undergone chemical change. This was evidenced even by the taste and smell. Stricker advises that the salicylic acid should always be examined as to its purity, and that the crystalline form alone should be used. If this rule had been followed in the above case, it is more than probable that it would have terminated favourably.—*Rundschau*

TREATMENT OF CHRONIC PSORIASIS.

Dr. Castells calculates that he has obtained forty-five cures of chronic external psoriasis by the following treatment.—He directs the patient to take a bath—with the view of causing the scales to drop off,—or of placing them in such a condition that they may be readily removed by the nails alone: once the skin is free, he touches all the red spots which have been covered by the scales with acetic acid; this quickly produces a marked sensation of heat, which only lasts about half-an-hour. Sometimes a single application suffices to obtain a cure; but at others it is necessary to make five, six, or seven, allowing at least twenty-four hours to elapse between each application, since by neglecting to do so we run the risk of producing a severe inflammation. In the larger number of the cures related by Dr. Castells, other remedies had been employed without any beneficial result.—*Revista Buenos Ayres*.