

toms, and shows that as much as forty-five grains have been borne without any ill effects. The fatal result in the foregoing case—which, it may be remembered, led to the suicide of the distinguished surgeon who operated—is to be ascribed to the increased power of absorption of the ulcerated intestinal wall, and to the retardation of the kidney secretion by the diseased condition of the glomeruli. It would therefore appear that when there is any question of giving large doses of cocaine a careful examination should be made of the condition of the kidneys, and if there is any ground for supposing them to be diseased or functionally inactive the greatest caution should be employed. It may be remembered that before operating the unfortunate surgeon asked one of his colleagues, who was a professor of therapeutics, what dose of cocaine might safely be given, the answer being, "Not more than two grains." So that the greatest diversity of opinion exists regarding the maximum dose of the drug.

**CARBONIC ACID WATER AS A VEHICLE FOR CREOSOTE.**—Dr. J. Rosenthal advises the exhibition of creosote in cognac and carbonic acid water to obviate the disagreeable taste of the drug and to attain proper dilution. The disguise to the palate is due, simply, to the anaesthetic effect of the carbonic acid and hence, for the perfect success of this plan the water must be freshly changed. The same result may be more easily accomplished by rinsing the mouth with a one-fourth of one per cent. solution of cocaine and the copious dilution of the creosote with ice water.

**"AN AUTOMATIC DOCTOR.**—A Dutch apothecary has just taken out a patent for a novel automatic machine in the shape of a wooden figure formed like a man. The figure will be covered with compartments labeled with the names of various ailments. The sufferer has only to place a piece of money in the compartment upon which the name of his illness is inscribed, and forthwith will appear a pill or powder suited to his case. The machine is constructed upon the same principle as

the ordinary automatic chocolate and bonbon machine. A Dutch paper predicts a brilliant future for this very original doctor."

**OLIVE OIL TREATMENT FOR GALL-STONES.**—Dr. Kishkin has published a paper in the *Meditsinskoe Obozrenie* on the employment of olive oil in large doses in cases of gall-stones, a form of treatment which has been especially recommended by certain American physicians. His observations were made on three patients suffering from gall-stones in Prof. Cherinoff's wards in Moscow. In one case only were calculi brought away. These were greenish and somewhat soft. The patient did not improve at all in health after their removal. It was found that similar stones could be obtained by giving olive oil to any person suffering from a scanty secretion of bile; and the stones on examination proved not to be biliary calculi at all, and contained no cholestearin, but consisted of oleic, palmitic, and margaric acids with lime soap. They were evidently produced in the bowel by the olive oil, therefore, Dr. Kishkin thinks it is a mistake to attribute to the American method any effect upon biliary calculi.

**A DRAINAGE TUBE PASSED THROUGH THE RECTUM.**—Dr. Mariani describes in the *Siglo Medico* a case where a rubber drainage tube was passed into the abdominal wound, after the removal of a large dermoid cyst which adhered to the perities, the omentum, and the liver. The patient was 46 years old. The wound healed in a week, but the tube had been allowed to slip into the abdominal cavity. The patient complained of pain referred to the left anterior superior iliac spine. A week after the healing of the wound the tube was passed during defecation. It had probably caused inflammation of the adjacent large intestine, and passed through the softened walls of the gut. About twelve years ago an entire stump of an ovarian pedicle was passed at stool. The case occurred in Germany, and the patient recovered. The expelled body must have entered the intestinal canal in the same manner as in Dr. Mariani's case.