

Selections.

Treatment of Hepatic Colic.—In a recent number of *La Médecine Moderne*, Professor Germain Sée discusses the always interesting and important subject of the treatment of hepatic colic. The obvious primary indication is to promote the expulsion of the gall-stone, and this, Professor Sée urges, should be accomplished by remedies which increase the flow of bile. The sufferings of the patient are, however, usually so intense that we are compelled to consider first the application of measures directed to the relief of pain. Of these, by far the most speedy and effectual is the hypodermic injection of morphine. This usually acts very well, but Prof. Sée warns us that in some cases the patients, after a fit of vomiting, fall into a state of alarming collapse, even when only one centigramme of morphine has been injected. We must also bear in mind that morphine is one of the substances which diminish the biliary secretion. Of antipyrin, Prof. Sée says that “it will only render mediocre services in this matter, and that we should not lose time by prescribing it.” Chloral and chloroform have a less certain action than morphine, but possess the advantage of not hindering the secretion of bile. Professor Sée advises that chloral, if used at all, should be given by enema, as it will not be well tolerated by the stomach. He is disposed to believe that both chloral and chloroform may act favorably by relieving spasm and promoting the relaxation of the walls of the bile-duct.

The second and most scientific indication is to increase the biliary secretion. The mere presence of the gall-stone, and the irritation which it excites, have a tendency to augment the flow of bile, but help may be obtained from the use of various medicinal remedies. Of cholagogues, Professor Sée enumerates bile itself, turpentine and its derivatives, terpine, terpinol, benzoic acid, salicylate of soda, and olive oil. He points out that bile is inadmissible, as its employment tends to make the biliary secretion thicker rather than to render it more fluid, as is desirable. Turpentine and its derivatives are comparatively inefficient cholagogues, but are nevertheless of some value. The “Dur-