

Atony of the stomach and intestines results in the accumulation of gases and interference with the circulation.

There is increased toxicity of the stomach contents in the presence of chloroform and ether.—*Four. A. M. A.*

A NOTE ON SOME FURTHER USES OF PICRIC ACID.

F. V. Milward, Birmingham. The merits of picric acid in the treatment of burns are now so well known that it is surprising that its use in other surgical conditions has not received greater recognition. The lesions in which it is particularly helpful are those in which the loss of superficial epithelium has produced a raw and painful sore, discharging serum and seropus. This "weeping" surface is best seen in acute eczematous conditions, but it is also very noticeable after slight traumatic abrasions. From the length of time that these take to heal, they may easily become infected, and produce a lymphangitis and its sequelae. Picric acid, which is a coagulant and an analgesic, is a simple and effective remedy, and promotes rapid healing. It is best used as a saturated solution, 1 in 95, of distilled water. The rationale of the treatment seems to be the formation of a pellicle of coagulated albumen over the wound, and so the protection of the ruptured superficial lymph spaces and exposed nerve endings.

A troublesome affection of the fingers, which is especially prone to occur in dressers, house surgeons, and practitioners, who come much into contact with pus, is a peri-onychia affecting the roots of the nails. It usually arises as a redness and tenderness of the soft parts over-lying the lunula and sides of the nail. If the free margin of the soft tissue where it extends over the base of the nail be separated from the latter, a bead of pus will exude and a little cavity be discovered, where this has been confined. Wet dressings appear to encourage the suppuration, and dry dressings cause the pus to become still further pent up, until very frequently it will burrow under the very root of the nail and attain its deep surface. Here it is still more difficult to reach. This trouble may be speedily cured by a little attention and the use of picric acid. By the aid of the head of a large needle (a probe is too thick) the soft parts are thoroughly separated from the nail. A few threads from plain white gauze, or a wisp of cotton wool are then soaked in a saturated solution