

a sensitive wound, it seldom gives rise to any irritation. If too freely dusted on a wound, it may be absorbed in such quantities as to produce death.

Action when taken internally.—In medium doses, it seldom proves irritating to the stomach and intestines. As far as is known, it has no action on either the liver or pancreas. When absorbed into the blood, it has the power of destroying the amoeboid movements of the white cells, and of preventing their emigration into the tissues of an inflamed part. It is considered to have the power of increasing the number of red cells, but its blood restoring qualities are so inferior to iron, arsenic and phosphorus, that there is no field for its use as a hæmatinic.

Action on the circulation.—Iodoform has a very similar action to chloroform on the heart, but more powerful. Ringer has shown that one-fifth of a grain is sufficient to arrest the ventricle of a frog's heart, while it takes two minims of chloroform to bring about a like result. When absorbed in large quantities in man, it produces weakness, with great increase in the frequency of the pulse. Iodoform has no special action on the respirations.

Temperature.—From the use of ordinary doses, the temperature is slightly increased, but when absorbed in toxic quantities, this increase is very marked.

Nervous System.—In ordinary medicinal doses, with the exception of causing headache, there is no perceptible action from its use. In man, its anæsthetic properties are not noticeable. In cats and dogs, however, even in doses short of producing intoxication, it readily induces sleep. Its action in toxic doses on the nervous system will be considered under the head of untoward effects.

On the Kidneys.—When it is used for some time, it occasionally gives rise to a transient albuminuria.

SURGICAL USES.

Iodoform is very extensively used at present as an antiseptic in the treatment of all forms of wounds. Compared with carbolic acid, it possesses some advantages and some disadvantages. Its principal advantage is its freedom from irritating qualities.