

can answer this question; and as statistics depend upon facts, it was thought proper to publish these.
—*Gaz. des Hôpitaux*.

TREATMENT OF ORCHITIS WITH NITRATE OF SILVER.

(*Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, Oct., 1873.)

Dr. W. E. Whitehead states that his plan of treatment for orchitis has been as follows: Rest in bed, and the application of a thorough coating of a solution of nitrate of silver—forty to eighty grains to the ounce—to the scrotum of the affected side, first having the scrotum well washed in soap and water; the administration of small doses of Epsom salts and tartar emetic dissolved in water, and repeated as often as once in four hours; support to the testicles and low diet. In some cases it is only necessary to make one, or at most two, applications of the solution of nitrate of silver to the scrotum; but sometimes it becomes necessary to paint once a day for three or four days before the swelling and pain are arrested. When the whole testicle is painful, hot, and swollen, stretch the scrotum over it gently, and then apply the solution with a camel's hair brush; but when the testicle is not so seriously implicated, merely draw the scrotum lightly over the epididymis portion, and apply the solution in the same way. One application is generally sufficient to relieve the extreme pain and at once arrest the inflammation and distressing sense of tension in the testicle, and the lumbar pain that follows the course of the spermatic cord. When the inflammation runs high, give tartar emetic in nauseating doses, otherwise in much smaller quantities.

DEPRESSED STATE OF THE BAROMETER AS A CAUSE FOR FRONTAL HEADACHE.

I have lately been reminded of a fact that I have observed in different parts of the world—viz., that some relation exists between a depressed state of the barometer and the prevalence of frontal headache; and although this fact has doubtless been observed by others, I believe that it is not generally known, and that its communication may prove interesting to some of your readers.

During the first five days of this month the barometer was exceedingly low, ranging from 29° to 29°30', or 29°40', and three members of my household and several of my acquaintances suffered from frontal headache of a more or less intense kind, and in addition to the headache, a sense of general languor and a slightly bruised sensation of the lower extremities. The headache was somewhat alleviated by the exhibition of guarana powder. This is the only instance in which I have observed the two phenomena concurrent in our latitudes.

I beg to leave the explanation of this phenomenon to abler men, and content myself with stating the fact.

I am, &c.,

FREDERICK IRVING DE LISLE, L.R.C.P.

Physician to the Hospital of St. Peter Port, Guernsey.—*Times and Gaz.*, Dec. 23, 1873.

WHAT IT COSTS TO SUPPORT HOSPITALS IN NEW YORK CITY.

According to the official estimates for 1873 we have the following: *Department of Charities and Corrections*:—Out-Door Poor Department, \$128,066; Bureau of Out-Door Sick Poor, \$5,300; Bellevue Hospital, estimated number of patients 700, \$103,370, or \$147.67 each patient; Charity Hospital, estimated number of patients 950, \$133,302, or \$140.31 each patient; Hospital for Contagious Diseases, 180 patients, \$20,667; Fever Hospital, 60 patients, \$6,179; Small-Pox Hospital, 175 estimated inmates, \$24,950; Hospital for Incurables, \$13,393; Asylum for the Blind, 150 inmates, \$8,055; Convalescent Hospital, 250 inmates, \$22,041; Lunatic Asylum, 1,300 patients, \$119,919, or \$92.25 per patient; New York City Asylum for Insane, 650 patients, \$83,026, or \$127.72 per patient; Hospital for Epileptic and Paralytic Patients, 120 patients, \$13,172; Hospital for Infants, 450 children, \$51,780, or \$115.06 per child; Randall's Island Nurseries, 650 inmates, \$61,282, or \$93.58 per inmate; Nursery Hospital and Idiot House, Randall's Island, 450 inmates, \$47,887; Inebriate Asylum, \$23,611; Reception Hospital, Centre street, \$10,180; Reception Hospital, 115th Street, \$5,920; Ambulance Establishment, \$3,995; General Drug Department, salaries, \$2,500. Total, \$888,595, as the estimate for the above hospitals, etc.. *Department of Charities and Corrections*.—*N. Y. Record*, Dec. 1, '73.

ABORTIVE TREATMENT OF BOILS.

The *Cincinnati Lancet and Observer* has a note from Dr. C. B. Hall, stating that the following, applied to boils, with a camel-hair pencil or feather, gives great relief in a very short time. The inflamed surface, and a little beyond all around, should be painted with the medicine every fifteen minutes, or as fast as it dries, till a good thick coating covers the part. The throbbing, tensive pain, and the intense tenderness will be promptly relieved; the redness will subside; the smooth, shining integument will shrink and become wrinkled, and comfort will succeed torment. If the boil is in the first stage, it will disappear without sloughing. If the slough has already formed, it will be quickly separated, and the cure soon complete:

R.—Tr. arnica flowers, 3i;
Tannic acid, 3 ss;
Gum acacia pulv., 3 ss. M.

It should be used as soon as prepared.

EUSTACHIAN OBSTRUCTION IN CHILDREN.

Mr. Dalby says, in his late work on the Ear, that this is a common affection, the mucous membrane of the nares, fauces, and Eustachian tube being affected together. The mucous membrane throughout is thickened and tumid, and secretion from the surface is much more abundant than it should be. The tonsils are generally enlarged, and sometimes to a very considerable extent. Of such children it is