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## Contents.

	PAGE		PAGE
The Therapeutics of Ammonium Chloride.....	81	Treatment of Acute Dysentery. — The Population Question in France.—Eczema caused by Nerve Disturbance.—Druggists and Venereal Patients.....	86-94
ORIGINAL COMMUNICATION :		CORRESPONDENCE .....	94
The Practical Artificial Feeding of Infants. By Carleton Jones, M.D., M.R.C.S.....	83	EDITORIALS :	
HOSPITAL PRACTICE :		Abdominal Operations .....	95
General Public Hospital, St. John, N. B. ....	85	The "Medical News" .....	96
REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES .....	86	University of Dalhousie and Halifax Medical College—Results of Examinations.....	96
SELECTIONS :		NOTES AND COMMENTS.....	97
Management of Lingering Labor.—A case of Hepatic Abscess.—Operation—Recovery.—Peroxide of Hydrogen.—Names of Diseases.—Mr. Edison's Explanation of the Ampere and the Volt.—Ways in which Syphilis may be spread.—Angina Pectoris.—Epsom Salts in the		PERSONALS .....	98
		BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED .....	98

## THE THERAPEUTICS OF AMMONIUM CHLORIDE.

Like many other drugs of known value the Chloride of Ammonium cannot very well be classed otherwise than under the indefinite term "alterative." Time and time again, careful therapeutists have called attention to the neglect of this drug. It possesses not a few most valuable therapeutic properties; and perhaps, its commonness and cheapness, compared with other popular drugs of more doubtful utility, are partly responsible for the comparatively infrequent use of this salt.

### EXTERNALLY.

During solution of the drug, cold is produced, and so the solution has occasionally been used as a refrigerant to the head. But as an external application, it is probably of most value in superficial swellings, such as glandular enlargements, (Garrod). For instance, it has been used in epididymitis, (Shoemaker), after the acute stage has subsided; also in prostatic enlargement, where the absorbifacient powers of the drug have been exhibited, the salt being administered internally as well as applied externally in solution.

H. C. Wyman, Shoemaker, and others, attribute a useful property to

Ammonium Chloride, namely, the power of removing ecchymosis from contusions, Wyman having successfully used a solution (1 in 10 of water) for this purpose. Shoemaker speaks of the drug as "an excellent dressing in the latter stages of superficial inflammation," and as promoting the absorption of exudation.

### INTERNALLY.

#### *In Catarrhal Conditions of the Respiratory passages.*

Advantage has been taken of the possibility of the convenient formation of the salt in its nascent vaporous condition, to supply the profession with many different forms of inhalers, by the use of which the drug is applied direct to the respiratory tract. Only those inhalers should be used, in which provision is made for ridding the vapour of all excess of acid before it is inhaled. In several of the inhalers made by the English manufacturers, the vapour is made to pass through a solution which dissolves out any excess of acid. The inhaler known as "Butcher's Inhaler" is a very good one. In Butcher's, a slight excess of ammonia is inhaled along with the vapour of ammonium chloride, but in most cases, and in all chronic cases, this would be of no disadvantage,