

Selections.

The Treatment of Whooping-cough with Antitussin.

Heim (*Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift*) regards antitussin as the most valuable therapeutic agent thus far brought forward for the treatment of whooping-cough. It is an ointment composed of five parts of difluordiphenyle, ten parts of vaseline, and eighty-five parts of chemically pure lanolin. Heim used this remedy in sixteen, for the most part very severe, cases of pertussis, and always with gratifying results. In nine cases of unusual severity, the children were in a convulsive state when the treatment was initiated. These were infants from three to eighteen months of age. In all cases after rubbing the throat, chest, and back, there occurred a prompt and often an astonishing improvement in the patient's condition. The remedy diminished the spasms and increased the secretions, and after two days of treatment there was decided decrease in the coughing attacks. Complete recovery took place sometimes in a few days, and at the longest within two weeks. He observed no ill effects from its use. He further recommends the use of antitussin in acute catarrhal affections of the larynx and pharynx.—*Medical Age*.

The Physical Effects of Overdoses of Cocaine.

The commonest symptom following a moderate overdose of cocaine is a feeling of cardiac anxiety or depression, but with much larger doses, say from one to twelve grains, there is marked cerebral excitement, with loss of memory for current events and precipitancy of idealization, the thoughts passing through the mind "helter skelter." In some cases these large doses give rise to maniacal delirium under the empire whereof the patient may commit acts of violence of which he has no recollection on recovery. The special senses are not affected, but owing to the disturbance of the cerebral function the impressions conveyed from them to the brain may cause hallucinations. The heart beat becomes rapid and small, and the rhythm is more or less impaired. Associated with these symptoms there is muscular tremor and extreme restlessness. The effects of cocaine at any rate when administered hypodermically, seem to depend not only upon the actual amount injected, but also in no small degree upon the strength of the solution employed, as shown by the fact that an animal which supports an injection of half a grain without inconvenience, when administered in dilute solution, suffers severely if even a third of a grain be injected in concentrated solution.—*Medical Press and Circular*.