

## CALOMEL IN HEART DISEASE.

Dr. Maldaresca, *British Medical Journal*, describes the successful results he has obtained with calomel in heart troubles accompanied by distress in breathing, severe disturbances in the circulation, ascites, edema, albuminuria and hypertrophied heart and liver. He gives it in six powders with sugar, 0.10 gram every two hours during the day, for two or three days, following this with 0.10 to 0.10 gram a day for a few days after, when he then commences potassium iodid. Enormous ascites and edemas vanish with this treatment, and even patients in complete cyanosis are restored to comparative health. He ascribes the wonderful action of the calomel to its effect on the liver. It relieves the congestion and thus restores the circulation in the important portal and liver veins which exert a favorable influence on the entire circulation and cures some of the complications, while it relieves all. The gums are frequently affected by the calomel, and he orders a mouth wash from the first, consisting of potassium chlorate 10.0, tannin 0.25, aq. dist. 350. He limits his patients to a milk diet during the treatment, and warns them afterward to refrain from alcohol and excessive exertion, and restrict themselves to a light diet, and persist in the use of potassium iodid. He has treated 107 cases, with five deaths of those that were *in ultimis*, and nine other deaths, all of elderly persons in advanced stages. He notes that the calomel has also the advantage that after it other remedies produce their best effect. He scouts the idea that calomel can form sublimate in the alimentary canal, as a very elevated temperature is required for this.

THE VALUE OF ANTIPYRETICS.—M. Binz, of Bonn, (*La Presse médicale de Belge*) discusses under this head quinine, salicylic acid, antipyrin, antifebrin, thallin, and ethyl alcohol. Quinine acts by a direct depression of cellular activity, and not through its influence on the nervous system. This depressing action is manifested on the pathogenic cells of malarial fever as well as on the normal cells of the organism. The antipyretic action of the drug is, therefore, both local and general. Salicylic acid has properties analogous to those of quinine. It has an energetic antifermentative and antiputrefying action; it is not toxic; it is not destroyed in the human organism. The feeble chemical activity of its sodium salt is not an obstacle to its action in the organism, because the active acid is set free by the carbonic acid of the inflamed tissues. It differs from quinine, however, in having a different action upon the cells of the organism, an action which is analogous to that of the members of the following group. The antipyretic action of antipyrin is obtained by its influence on the central nervous system,—that is, upon the head-regulating centres situated in the brain. The characteristic of its antipyretic action is to weaken actual nervous excitation produced by the agent which caused the fever. Antifebrin, phenacetin, and thallin act in a more or less analogous manner. Thallin, however, must be credited with a direct destructive action on the organisms in the infective fevers.