

TREATMENT OF WHOOPING COUGH.—MM. Louvet-Lamare and Constantin Paul have great confidence in *drosera rotundifolia*. During the first period, for the bronchitis they recommend bryonia; during the second, as a sedative to the cough, the *drosera*, (1 to 5 grammes—*Mxv-lxxv*—of the tincture). M. Louvet-Lamare recommends, besides the muriate of ammonia in the daily dose of half a gramme ($7\frac{1}{2}$ grains) for a child seven years of age, when there arises, as frequently occurs, that inflammation limited to the lower part of the pharynx, the larynx, or upper part of the trachea, causing the thermometer to rise to $38^{\circ}5$ or 39° (101° - 102° Fahr.) and characterized by a harrowing cough, without any new sign occurring in the chest.—*Lyon Medical*.

TRANSVERSE LINES ON THE SURFACE OF THE NAILS AFTER DISTURBANCES OF GENERAL HEALTH.—Mr. J. Hutchinson says, in the *Medical Times and Gazette*—It has been observed that during febrile ailments and various other more or less acute derangements of health, the nutrition of the nail suffers. A record of each relapse or exacerbation, permanent during the life of the nail, is left on its surface in the form of a transverse furrow. As the age of an oyster may be reckoned by counting the ridges on its convex shell, so in these cases may the number of relapses and the relative duration of the intervals be estimated. * Dr. Wilks, in his original short article on this subject (*Lancet*, January 2nd, 1869, page 5), infers, from the known rate of growth of the nail being equal to two full lengths a year, that furrows on the middle of the nail indicate an illness three months before.

CITRATE AND BROMHYDRATE OF CAFFEINE.—At a recent meeting of the Société de Thérapeutique in Paris, M. Gubler pointed out the diuretic properties of citrate and bromhydrate of caffeine, in doses of fifty centigrammes (seven grains and a half), in the form of hypodermic injection. The diuretic effect is almost immediately produced, whilst with digitalis it is delayed for two or three days. Caffeine may be given as a draught

for the same purpose, in doses of thirty centigrammes (four grains and a half). Caffeine increases the vascular tension less than digitalis does. The maximum action of digitalis is reached on the fourth or fifth day; and, if the administration of digitalis be prolonged, an accumulation of action is produced—that is to say, an opposite result to that desired. M. Gubler generally prescribes the alcoholic tincture, in doses of twenty drops. If the kidneys do not yield to the action of this remedy, M. Gubler pronounces them to be incapacitated for use.—*British Medical Journal*.

From *Le Progrès Médical*.

EFFECTS OF PURGATIVES ON INTESTINAL SECRETION AND EXCRETION.—At the *Société Biologie*, on the 8th day of June, M. Leven narrated the result of his investigations into the functions of the intestines. Experiments formerly made are defective in this respect, that the opening of the abdomen and the manipulation of the viscera modified the physiological conditions. M. Leven studied the secretions and excretions after the administration of purgative substances. Salts, notably the sulphate of magnesia, do not give rise to secretion, but to the excretion of a neutral liquid, rich in chloride of sodium, and free from albumen. With castor oil, on the contrary, the liquid is albuminous. Charcoal, improperly regarded as a mechanical purgative, gives rise neither to secretion nor excretion. Lastly, after the administration of drastics, the intestinal liquid, rich in chloride of sodium and in albumen, contains besides an enormous quantity of leucocytes, which afford evidence of active inflammation.

“The sulphate of magnesia produces excretion, but not secretion; no albumen is found in the excreted products. The purgatives, improperly called mechanical, such as castor oil, produce a liquid charged with albumen in rather large quantity, and with chloride of sodium. Drastics produce an aqueous liquid charged with chloride of sodium, and with albumen in double or treble the quantity of that from castor oil, and containing besides an enormous quantity of leucocytes.”—*Gaz. des Hôp.*