

Selections.

Acute Tonsillitis.—Dr. Carl Seiler (*Med. and Surg. Reporter*) says : When a patient presents himself at the dispensary, complaining that the throat has been sore for some days, and symptoms of acute tonsillitis are present, the fauces are first thoroughly washed with my antiseptic solution. Then not only the inflamed tonsils, but the adjacent inflamed surfaces, are carefully painted with a solution of nitrate of silver, one drachm to the ounce, and the following gargle prescribed :

℞	Potasii Bromidi	- - -	ʒiv
	Potasii Chloratis	- - -	ʒi
	Tr. Ferri Chlor.	- - -	f ʒiiss
	Ext. Glycyrrhizæ	- - -	ʒi
	Aquæ	- - -	q.s. ad f ʒiv

M. Sig. A teaspoonful in water every two hours ; gargle and swallow.

In this formula there is a chemical reaction between the tincture of the chloride of iron and the chlorate of potash, by which free chlorine is liberated, and so acts as a disinfectant. The resulting iron salt is highly astringent, while the bromide, besides its local action, diminishes the reflexes and adds to the patient's comfort. After all, however, it is the argentic nitrate that relieves the suffering. It is worse than useless to apply a weak solution, as it is painful and seems to act as an irritant ; while the application of a solution of one drachm to the ounce produces no disagreeable sensation, but is followed by a sense of comfort. After the application, a tenacious film of albuminate of silver forms, adhering closely to the surface (doubtless containing some undecomposed silver nitrate), and thus the astringent and sedative effects of the silver are kept up for some hours. If, after that time, the tonsils be examined, they will appear paler and smaller than when first seen. These applications are made in the dispensary once a day to patients requiring them, care being taken that none of the nitrate of silver solution drops from the cotton swab so as to get into the larynx, where it would produce severe spasm of the glottis. Sometimes a single application will effect