

The absence of the sound signifies a stricture or obstruction of the middle or lower third of the esophagus. The best tests for free hydrochloric acid are tropeolin and Günzberg's reagent phloroglucin vanillin. The routine examination of the contents of the stomach to determine the amount of acid present is carried out as follows: 10 cubic centimeters of stomach contents are taken, and two drops of phenolphthalein added thereto in a saucer. To this a standard one-per-cent salt solution is added drop by drop from a graduated tube till the color changes to red. The percentage of acid present is determined by the amount of salt solution added, the normal acidity being between forty and sixty cubic centimeters of this graduated cube. The absorptive power of the stomach is determined by giving iodide potassium internally. This should be found in the saliva in from fifteen to twenty minutes. To ascertain the motor power of the viscus, a capsule of salol (one gram) is given, and the urine tested with perchloride of iron for salicylates. Another less convenient method is to give a definite quantity of oil by the mouth, and after a given interval remove the contents of the stomach and ascertain the quantity of oil still present.—*American Practitioner*.

#### TRANSMISSIBILITY OF SYPHILIS.

As published in his magnificent *Atlas of Venereal and Skin Diseases*, Prof Morrow's conclusions in reference to the hereditary transmissions of syphilis are:

1. A syphilitic man may beget a syphilitic child, the mother remaining exempt from all visible signs of the disease; the transmissive power of the father is, however, comparatively restricted.

2. A syphilitic woman may bring forth a syphilitic child, the father being perfectly healthy; the transmissive power of the mother is much more potent and pronounced, and of longer duration, than that of the father. When both parents are syphilitic, or the mother alone, and the disease recently acquired, the infection of the fetus is almost inevitable; the more recent the syphilis, the greater the probability of infection, and the graver the manifestation in the offspring.

3. While hereditary transmission is more certain when the parental syphilis is in full activity of manifestation, it may also be effected during period of latency when no active symptoms are present.

4. Both parents may be healthy at the time of procreation, and the mother may contract syphilis during her pregnancy, and infect her child in utero. Contamination of the fetus during pregnancy is not probable if the maternal infection takes place after the seventh month of pregnancy.

#### A REMEDY FOR PALPITATION.

Dr Gingeot (*Revue générale de clinique et de thérapeutique*), suggests as a valuable remedy for palpitation—one that has proved serviceable to him—the application of cold to the precordial region. Attention must be paid to the method of applying cold. The simplest plan of all is to apply a wet sponge over the region of the heart in the morning before dressing. At night, when in bed, the patient or an assistant may put a cold compress over the heart, well covered with dry bandages, to retain moisture and prevent any wetting of the clothing. When this compress is warm, the patient may remove it, and will probably fall asleep. There are objections to the ice-bag, one being the condensation of insensible perspiration upon the surface of the skin. The ether-spray is a simple and convenient method of refrigeration. With proper instruction as to necessary precautions in the use of ether, the patient can apply cold in this way at any hour of the day or night. Palpitation of purely nervous origin seldom fails to be greatly benefited by the application of cold; and a certain success often follows its use in cases of palpitation due to organic disease. Equalizing the heart's action will often prevent an increase in its size. It is also useful in aneurism and passive dilatation.—*N. Y. Med. Journal*.

#### EHRlich's TEST FOR TYPHOID FEVER,

Make two solutions, one consisting of 72 minims hydrochloric acid and 10 grains sulphanic acid in 3 ounces distilled water; the other, a freshly-prepared  $\frac{1}{2}$ -per-cent solution of sodic nitrite in distilled water. To 26 parts of urine from a typhoid-fever patient, and 25 parts solution 1, and one part of solution 2, and the mixture is rendered alkaline by addition of ammonia. A bright orange-red color appears.—*Pract. and News*.

For gonorrhoea Shoemaker advises cleaning the parts with a hot solution of common salt, and the use as an injection of three grains of corrosive sublimate to six ounces of water. Internally he advises the use of terebene in ten-drop doses three times a day, in capsule or on sugar. In a gleet condition the combined use of terebene and belladonna, he thinks, is probably the best treatment. He instanced a case of gleet which had been treated by all the best venereal specialists in this country, which was finally cured by Ricord, of Paris, by the use of belladonna in one-drop doses four times a day, increased to three drops three times a day. Terebene, he says, has not only a most decided action on the gonococcus, but has also a soothing and sedative influence on the mucus membrane of the urethral tract.—*Times and Register*.