

tried the electrolytic treatment, they were all considerably worse after than before the treatment. Thinking his plan might be faulty, he had applied to Dr. Stevenson for advice and counsel, but without any improvement in the results obtained. He pointed out that the treatment was by no means devoid of danger, and he quoted instances in which the electrode had been pushed into the rectum, etc. He also mentioned one case in which the fatal result was attributed to this method. He said that only certain forms of stricture were amenable to electrolysis, namely, those in the deeper parts of the urethra associated with spasm. He concluded with the remark of an American practitioner—"that the brilliant results said to have been obtained by electrolysis of stricture depended upon the credulity of the patient and the ingenuousness of the practitioner, or possibly upon some fortuitous act of Providence upon which it would not be safe to count."

—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

EUCALYPTUS IN WHOOPING COUGH.—During an epidemic of whooping-cough, which recently occurred, I was induced by the continual failure of the various popular remedies, such as belladonna, atropine, alum, etc., to effect cures, to try the effect of the oil of eucalyptus. This is a powerful antiseptic, being more than three times as strong as carbolic acid in preventing the development of bacteria, has not the caustic properties of the latter and does not produce that irritation which the latter does, even when diluted on the lips or mucous membrane. In combination with terebene the oil forms a mixture having a pleasant aromatic odor, somewhat similar to sandal-wood, exercising a sedative influence on the lining membrane of the air passages, and possessing, besides antiseptic properties, the power of destroying the virus of the sputum, which is not only found clinging to the thickened and congested mucous membrane of the epiglottis, larynx, and bronchi, but is with every fit of coughing ejected by the mouth, with the possibility of infecting others. This sputum being crowded with bacteria and micrococci, it is upon the destruction of these with their extraordinary power of development and mul-

tiplication that our success depends. As a spray, a mixture composed of two drachms of oil of eucalyptus, two drachms of terebene, one and a half ounces of rectified spirit of wine, is of value. The spray may be used half an hour before each meal and at bedtime, while internally I give terebene in drop doses to a child from two to three years of age, in combination with two grains of carbonate of magnesium, and ten minims of compound tincture of camphor to one or two teaspoonfuls of water, repeated every three hours. The two former constituents to be triturated together, the magnesium being used simply as a carriage for the terebene, which is not miscible with water. The paretic allays the irritability of the cough until the disease succumbs to the specific treatment. In every case where the above treatment has been properly carried out it has effected cures in about a fortnight.—W. W. HARDWICKE, M.D., in the *Lancet*.

THE AMERICAN ALOE IN HYDROPHOBIA.—Dr. Pablo Patron mentions in the Peruvian journal *La Cronica Medica* that a rabid dog having bitten a boy in Ayacucho, the boy, notwithstanding that the wounds had been well canterised, began in a few days' time to show unmistakable signs of having hydrophobia, and one day, when no one was watching him, he ran away into the fields and gathered some leaves of the American aloe (*Agave Americana*) and sucked them. After this the symptoms of the disease began to abate, and the boy recovered. The American aloe is very common in some parts of Peru and Central America, and the Mexicans are said to be very fond of a tea made from the leaves. The plant is also used for poultices, and forms a tolerable substitute for soap. Dr. Patron has been induced to publish this case through having read in some Spanish medical journal of a somewhat similar occurrence.

CEREBRAL COMPLICATIONS OF EAR DISEASE.—Dr. Otto Korner, of Frankfurt, points out that all the cerebral complications of ear disease are more frequent on the right than on the left side. Thus, of 31 cases of cerebral abscess, 18 occurred