

slight. He thought that bicarbonate of soda neutralized the effect of the zinc chloride. He regulated the action of the caustic by using a small quantity, which answered just as well. He freely admitted that in every case where the knife could be used it should be used. In uterine surgery the knife could not be used so freely or repeatedly as in other regions. He referred to a case of breast cancer which recurred after incision, and was perfectly sound when seen five years after treatment by caustics. His method was not dangerous in deep parts, the slough being only about one-sixth of an inch in thickness. It was said that the relief was temporary. Was that not the case in all cases of cancer? At any rate the relief was marked. As regards the reproach that it was unscientific he was of the opinion that patients would prefer to be cured by methods that were unscientific rather than be left to die, because the only available means of cure rested under that terrible stigma.

ANTIPYRIN IN LABOR.—Strong testimony to the value of antipyrin in mitigating the pains of labor is borne by Professor Paolo Negra, director of the Obstetrical Clinic at Venice. He says that his experience, based on a very large number of cases, enables him to affirm positively—1, that antipyrin used during parturition has never in his hands produced any ill effect whatever; 2, that in the majority of cases it was of great use, so much so that in his clinic antipyrin has now for several months past replaced every other drug ordinarily employed to relieve the pain of uterine contraction during labor.—*London Med. Recorder.*

QUININE.—The wholesale price of quinine is now one shilling and fourpence per ounce, and the increasing exports of Java bark, which contains twice as much quinine as the Ceylon bark, makes it improbable that it will again reach anything like the price of a short time back.

THE Popular Science News says: The warning has often been given in these columns to avoid all doctors who advertise their practise or their cures in the

newspapers, no matter how plausible they may appear, or what inducements they hold forth, and a similar caution may be given in regard to those equally dangerous men who hide their evil designs under the name of a "College" or "Institute."

DR. GAIRDNER, Edinburgh, in his introductory says: When I hear a man talking at large and dogmatically about "biliousness" (a term of Abernethy's, which neither Abernethy nor anyone else has been able to explain further than that it requires blue pill), or about "congestion of the brain," or anaemia of the same, which he cannot have seen, and does not know at all as really existing, or about "irritation of the mucuous membrane" (so beautifully vague that it may mean almost anything), or about "hyperaesthesia" or "hyperaemia," or, to use a more modern phrase, "neurasthenia"—I know that he is in the stage of mental progress represented by those old theoretical views of the fevers to which I alluded a moment ago. He is using words, not to set forth knowledge, but to conceal and gloss over essential ignorance; his diagnosis, and prognosis, and treatment will probably all follow the same lines, and be based upon some intangible theory or current hypothesis of his own or someone else's invention, and not upon the plain facts and carefully studied details of the case before him. Therefore it is that I urge upon you young men to get into the habit of steering clear, if possible, of all such mere vague and misleading phrases. Try to think of diseased phenomena as men do who have and who use (up to a certain point) the means of *knowing them as facts*, and not merely *speculating about them*; men armed with the stethoscope and ophthalmoscope, and laryngoscope, &c., and with chemical and microscopical tests at hand, and the thermometer, sphygmograph, &c., to give the exact indications of fact, which should place you out of the bearing altogether of these survivals of ancient, sometimes even of mediæval theory, which may for a time usurp the place of medical science, but are no more closely related to real knowledge—that is to say the true science—of disease than the atoms of Democritus and Lucretius,