

TOPICAL TREATMENT OF PARENCHYMATOUS KERATITIS AND CORNEAL OPACITIES WITH MERCURIAL OINTMENT.—J. Mitvalsky, M.D. (*Merck's Bulletin*, May, 1892), writes of the treatment of parenchymatous keratitis and corneal opacities with a diluted mercurial ointment. The formula he uses is :

Mercurial ointment (33 per cent.), 1 part ;
Vaseline, 2 parts ;
Lanolin, 1 part.

He finds the greatest amount of good results from the use of the ointment in parenchymatous keratitis in the very first stages of infiltration. The application of the ointment causes a prompt absorption of the products of infiltration in most cases without a typical vascular stage developing. If there is much pericorneal injection, brow-ache, or photophobia, the ointment is contra-indicated. Good results are obtained only when the inflammation is unaccompanied by irritation or very mild symptoms of ciliary irritation. When the inflammatory process is declining the ointment is valuable. In clearing up old corneal opacities he regards the ointment as superior to any agent we possess.—*International Medical Magazine*.

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE OF INTESTINAL OCCLUSION (*Rivista veneta di scienze mediche*).—Dr. P. Bonazzi gives a report of two very interesting cases of this complication. The first was that of a woman, fifty-nine years old, in whom the use of the corset had brought about the complete division of the right lobe of the liver, the inferior portion, nearly six centimetres in length, being united to that organ merely by a band of fibrous tissue, and pushed upward. The gall-bladder was united to the moving fragment and fixed to the colon by adhesions of peritoneum. In consequence of these lesions the transverse colon was drawn up, and the traction thus exerted had induced a twisting of the intestines and an obstruction of the intra-intestinal circulation: the accumulation of feces and gas beyond that fold had completed the occlusion: this is a unique case, and undoubtedly the first observation of the kind reported. The second case was that of a man, fifty-nine years old also, suffering from a volvulus of the sigmoid flexure of the colon, caused by the twisting of its own mes-

entery (sigmoid mesocolon). This volvulus was due to the extraordinary length of the sigmoid flexure, which was four times the usual size, the large intestine in its entirety measuring 2.83 metres, that is, 1.18 metres longer than normal. It was a case of congenital abnormal development of the large intestine, or perhaps of a mesenteric peritonitis, during foetal life. The intestinal circulation in such cases is carried on without difficulty during infancy and childhood, but in old age the diminution in the energy of the peristaltic movements of the intestines causes a stagnation of the fecal matter in the vicinity of the sigmoid flexure, and the twisting of this part of the intestinal canal takes place with great facility.—*International Medical Magazine*.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE NASAL DOUCHE.—Dr. Bloebaum (*Med. Neuigkeiten*) no longer uses the nasal douche in removing crusts from the nasal cavity. He simply twists a long and thin roll of cotton on to a knitting-needle, introduces it into the nose and withdraws the needle, leaving the cotton in the nose. A second and third are introduced thus, until the entire cavity is filled. Then one may begin with the opposite side and do likewise. In the course of a quarter of an hour the mucous membrane begins to secrete profusely, and if the cotton is then removed it will be found that it is saturated with secretions, and the crusts lie on the rolls of cotton, thus leaving a nicely cleaned cavity for the application of the remedies. He never employs any watery solutions, but salves, which are rubbed into the nasal mucous membrane, or powders, which are insufflated.—*Lancet Clinic*.

For the treatment of the reflex cough accompanying catarrhal sore throat, there is no remedy so effective as a spray of the following, which may also be used as a gargle :

R. Acidi. carbolici ʒi
Pulv. sodii bor ʒi
Cocainæ hychochlor grs. xii
Glycerini purif ʒss
Aquæ rose ad ʒxii

S. To be used as directed.—*Whittle's Dictionary of Medicine*.