

THE TIME FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN REMEDIES.

The late Sir Robert Christison, in his life-time Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh, gave the following directions as regards the time at which certain remedies should be taken:

"Iodine and the iodides should be given on an empty stomach. If given during digestion, the acids and starch alter and weaken their action. Acids, as a rule, should be given between meals. Acids given before meals check the excessive secretion of the acids of the gastric juice. Irritating and poisonous drugs, such as salts of arsenic, copper, zinc and iron, should be given directly after meals. Oxide and nitrate of silver should be given after the process of digestion is ended; if given during or close after meals the chemicals destroy or impair their action. Potassium permanganate also should not be given until the process of digestion is ended; inasmuch as organic matter decomposes it and renders it inert. The active principle of the gastric juice is impaired and rendered inert by corrosive sublimate, tannin and pure alcohol; hence they should be given at the close of digestion. Malt extracts, cod liver oil, the phosphates, etc., should be given with or directly after food."

LISTER (SIR JOSEPH) ON VARICOCELE AND ITS TREATMENT.

I wish to impress this important fact upon you: do not think, because a man is discovered to have varicocele, that therefore it is your duty to subject him to an operation. The cases which call for operative interferences are few, and surgical measures employed under other circumstances are unjustifiable.

THE TREATMENT OF SICK-HEADACHE.

Dr. W. Gill Wylie of New York has produced excellent results with the following method of treatment: So soon as the first pain is felt, the patient is to take a pill, or capsule, containing one grain of inspissated ox-gall and one drop of oil of gaultheria, every hour until relief is felt, or until six have been taken. Dr. Wylie states that sick-headache as such is almost invariably cut short by this plan, although some pain of a neuralgic character remains in a few cases.

EARLY PATERNITY.

A correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* reports a well-authenticated case in which a boy thirteen years and four months old successfully impregnated a woman. The *Journal* states that the earliest case heretofore recorded of precocious puberty is that of a boy aged fourteen.

Cablegram, London, Oct. 25th.—W. R. Warner & Co., Phila., received highest award from American Exhibition in London for superiority of their sugar-coated Pills and Effervescing Salts.

NEW BUILT HOUSES.

A recent number of the *Dublin Medical Press* says:—

"A great many people could testify to the numerous ill-effects which follow residence in newly built houses before there has been time to get rid of the moisture contained in the walls. It has been estimated that a modern brick dwelling of medium size requires about ten thousand gallons of water for its construction, a large proportion of which is still present when building operations are completed. Nothing is more deceptive than the appearance of the walls within a month or two of their being coated with plaster. To the touch and sight they appear beautifully dry, but no sooner are fires lighted than the moisture, displaced by the warmth, deposits elsewhere and shows itself in patches of damp. Heat alone will not materially expedite the presence of dessication; free ventilation is even more essential. The evaporation of this moisture absorbs enough heat to keep down the temperature of the rooms, and inflicts positive injury on the tenants by provoking the reduction of heat. The effect of radiation, apart from mere temperature, is easily seen by the sense of coolness experienced on leaving a crowded room for an empty one, even when the actual temperature of the latter is not less than that of the former. Further, damp walls are better conductors of heat than dry walls, and subject the occupants to greater and more rapid changes of temperature. At the town of Basle, in Switzerland, a regulation has recently been put in force prohibiting the habitation of houses within four months of their completion, and it would be well if this provision could be extended to other places.