

tions occupy an important place in the treatment of painful uterine diseases, chiefly, however, as adjuvants to a higher class of remedies. Here again we find solutions of belladonna and opium to be of most service, and to these may be added liquor plumbi diacetatis, and perhaps dilute hydrocyanic acid. As simple emollient applications for relieving irritation, milk and water, linseed tea, barley water, and thin starch or gruel are very valuable. To allay the pain of ulceration of the os and cervix uteri, Dr. Lloyd Roberts uses very weak solutions of carbolic acid, on the ground that it possesses in an equal degree with the stronger caustics the property of changing the vitality of the tissues and dissipating inflammation and hypertrophy. I find the following lotion very serviceable in these cases:

Glycerin acid. carbol..... 3 ij;  
 Liq. plumbi diacetatis..... 3 iv;  
 Liq. calcis..... ad 3 viij.  
 M. ft. Lotion.

In the instance of a private patient afflicted with a soft bleeding cancer of the uterus, the assiduous use of this injection stopped for a time all pain and hemorrhage. Dr. Churchill says that he can relieve the pain of "corroding ulcer" of the uterus by the local application of such caustics as nitric acid, muriate of antimony, chloride of zinc, and iodine, even though it is impossible to get the ulcer to heal; while in "advanced cases" temporary relief may be obtained from vaginal injections of nitrate of silver.

**LOCAL USE OF VAPOR OF CHLOROFORM IN UTERINE DISORDERS.**—Dr. West has not much to say in favor of the local employment of the vapor of chloroform, even by means of Dr. Hardy's "very ingenious contrivance;" and he is equally disappointed with the effects of a stream of carbonic-acid gas. To the latter agent attention was first directed by Sir Jas. Simpson, who spoke of its results as uncertain, although in some cases the success that followed its use was striking and immediate. M. Bernard has obtained some decisively good effects in a few cases of uterine carcinoma, followed by a great improvement in the state of the womb, and by a partial cicatrization of the ulcer.

Acute inflammation of the vagina following labor should be treated with injections of tepid milk and water or of a weak solution of acetate of lead. Gonorrheal inflammation must be treated in a similar way.

**RELIEF OF THE IRRITABLE UTERUS.**—Dr. Graily Hewitt has graphically described the condition of a patient suffering from "irritable uterus," which he believes to be nothing more or less than a retroflexion of the uterus in an aggravated form. This state of things is to be remedied by reducing the flexion, and then all the symptoms disappear which arise from engorgement of the uterus, compression of the nerves which course through its tissues, and

stretching and dragging of the peritoneum. A mechanical element of treatment here comes into play, consisting in the application of a suitable form of pessary. The literature of uterine pessaries is of appalling magnitude; and the object of this treatise is to indicate principles rather than to delineate those details which can be learnt from the proper textbooks. Pessaries of convenient shape and size relieve other painful conditions of the uterus caused by misplacement of the organ.

**NEURALGIA OF FEMALE URETHRA.**—A desperate neuralgia sometimes afflicts the female urethra and orifice of the bladder. But very often what seems to be a pure neuralgic affection depends upon minute ulcers in the urethral mucous membrane. By an ingenious contrivance Mr. Ashwell washes the whole tract of membrane with a strong solution of nitrate of silver, and by this plan he cured a very severe case of the disorder. I obtained equal success in an exceedingly obstinate case by the passage of a soft bougie every night and morning.—*From John Kent Spender's Therapeutic Means for Relief of Pain.*

#### HEAT FOR THE RELIEF OF PAIN.

**ORDINARY POULTICES** are convenient vehicles of heat and moisture; and, as such, are constantly used for allaying local pain. "Poultices should always be applied as hot as they can be borne, and frequently changed, lest they become cold and hard." They are always soothing to inflamed tissues, and have a most beneficial influence on inflamed viscera when placed on the surface over the diseased organ. An acute pneumonia or a pleurisy is always relieved by the application of a hot and large "jacket poultice;" and we may try to relieve the suffering of a peritonitis or a pericarditis by the same plan. Over the peritoneum a poultice should be light and thin, and bran is a good material to make it with.

Dr. Ringer mentions poulticing as useful for acute rheumatism, lumbago, sciatica, pleurodynia, and myalgia. When a poultice is removed the skin should be covered with a piece of flannel, and the flannel covered with oiled silk; this after-treatment promotes free perspiration, on which mainly depends the efficacy of the method. Starch poultices are extremely soothing, and may be used for lessening the pains of open cancers, as well as the heat and inflammation of certain eruptions of the skin. A potato poultice for the irritation of scabies is favorably spoken of by Dr. M'Call Anderson.

The pain of a maturing carbuncle or abscess is much diminished by hot small poultices. Linseed poultices are often applied to rheumatic and gouty joints; the heat and pain are generally mitigated thereby.

**FOMENTATIONS** with hot or tepid water (and with water medicated in various ways) are another vehicle of heat and moisture. Opium is the medicament principally employed, but solutions of many other