

heard he was worse, and was passing a lot of blood, and had much tenesmus. I at once prepared an injection of sulphate of copper, 10 gr.; tincture of opium, 1 dr.; and 4 oz. of water. On reaching the house I found him lying in a small pool of blood. He informed me this had been going on all night, and the tenesmus was unbearable, bringing away blood and mucus. I well oiled a large long gum-elastic catheter, and with a finger in the rectum passed it as far into the bowel as it would go, which was at least fifteen inches; through this the copper solution was injected from a small brass syringe; it caused no pain; and in the evening the tenesmus was relieved, and very little blood had passed. On the 22nd he was decidedly better, but more blood in the stools than I liked, so the injection was repeated, and again on the 23rd; and from this date he recovered rapidly. My treatment prior to the copper injection was bismuth, gallic acid, a full dose of powdered ipecacuanha; but nothing gave such rapid and permanent relief as the copper and opium. The diet was purely milk. I have not had such a bad case as this in an adult since, but in children several; and here the same treatment proved successful.

STERILITY IN WOMEN—ITS ETIOLOGY AND TREATMENT.

A paper read before the Mississippi Valley Medical Society at Evansville, Ind., Sept. 10, 1889, by Dr. E. S. McKEE, of Cincinnati.

The author found the subject a difficult one. He thought the most common cause of sterility was intra-uterine disease, and chronic endometritis its general manifestation. Inflammations of the pelvic peritoneum and of the parametria or their consequences are a frequent origin. Three things must be determined: Are spermatozoa in the semen? Do they get into the utero cervical canal? Do the vaginal secretions poison the spermatozoa? Sterility in man must be eliminated before seeking the causes of childless marriages in the wife. Gross claims that one out of six sterile marriages are the fault of the husband, and Kehrer claims one-third,

and the cause of the barrenness was gonorrhoea. The habits of the wealthy diminish fertility, while those of the poorer classes seem to favor it. The injurious effect of excessive fat in women as regards childbearing is generally admitted. The prospects of offspring will depend more on the menses than the flesh, amenorrhoeic fat women being usually sterile. The prevalence of spasmodic dysmenorrhoea among sterile women, about two out of five cases, leads to a belief that this condition has some influence upon sterility. Gonorrhoea is an important factor. The reflux of semen is not so important a cause as supposed; the mucous discharge of the glands of Cowper and Duverney are often mistaken for semen. A Chicago professor has found in that city that the hair on the mons veneris of sterile women is straight. He does not advise curling the hair as a cure for sterility, however. Sexual incompatibility is well known to exist.

SEE (C.) ON IODIDE OF POTASSIUM AS A CARDIAC TONIC.—The author has found that the iodides of potassium and sodium have very different actions and cannot be substituted one for the other. The potassium, does while the sodium does not, act on the heart and vessels. If from 15 to 45 grains of the iodide of potassium are injected into the veins of a dog, there is noticed first an *alkaline period*, in which the pulse becomes rapid and the arterial tension is raised; and second, an *iodic period*, during which the arterial pressure diminishes; with the iodide of sodium there is no alkaline period. In the alkaline stage there is constriction of the vessels, while in the iodic stage there is vascular dilatation. The potassium salt is, then, with digitalis, a permanent cardiac tonic. From a therapeutic point of view the author considers the drug contra-indicated in all nervous affections, among which he includes exophthalmic goitre, in which disease the pneumogastric nerve is parietic. He gives with success the iodide of potassium in fatty heart, in coronary sclerosis, in over-acting heart, in angina pectoris, and in the irregular heart of the aged.—*La France Medicale*.