

generally causes vaginismus to disappear, Lutaud advises that a hypodermic injection of $\frac{1}{6}$ of a grain of morphia should be given before coitus, as this by its sedative action may allow the act to be successfully performed, with pregnancy, and the cure of the vaginismus as the result.—*Journal de Med. de Paris, 18 Nov., 1888.*

THE DISINFECTION AND TEMPERING OF RUBBER DRAINS.—Tubes are usually so affected by the usual process of preparation as to be very much injured, and then fail to realise their intended purpose. To avoid softening (more especially of the red varieties), Javaro advises that for five minutes they be immersed in concentrated sulphurous acid. He urges that the red variety should always be used in preference to the white kinds, as being more suited to withstand injury during his process. In the acid the tubes assume a dark chestnut color and become hardened. Then they are to be washed in alcohol, 75 per cent., and finally to be laid away in antiseptic preserving fluid—either 5 per cent. carbolic acid solution or 1-200 bichloride solution. Tubes so prepared will not collapse under even very considerable pressure. If they have become too hard, by working them between the fingers they can be much softened. After being treated in the acid, they are unaltered in any way further by preservation in antiseptic fluids. These tubes have now for a long time in his hands replaced all other kinds, and he utilises them for every possible purpose. They maintain their lumen even when placed between the ribs, and will not readily kink or become obstructed, yet are not so resistant as to exert dangerous pressure.—*The Satellite.*

THE NEW HYPNOTIC SULPHONAL.—Dr. Garnier, in a short article on this substance in the *Progres Medical*, speaks highly of its use as a hypnotic, especially in insanity. He says that in the majority of cases it possesses, in doses of 1-5 grammes, a truly remarkable hypnotic action, superior to that of paraldehyde, urethane, methylal or chloral. It should be given in a single large dose, and does not seem to be accompanied by any appreciable ill effects. It is necessary, however, to be perfectly certain of

the purity of the preparation, which is principally to be determined by its having a fixed melting point. Sulphonal was discovered by Baumann of Freiburg, and is a diethyl-sulphodimethyl-methane- $C_7H_{16}S_2O_1$. It is an oxidized product of a combination of ethylic mercaptan and methylic acetone, and exists in the form of fine crystalline tables, white, inodorous, with a slightly bitter taste, and easily powdered; it is scarcely soluble in cold water, but is perfectly soluble in a large excess of boiling water, from which it is precipitated on cooling. It behaves similarly with alcohol, so that it is administered best in the form of a fine powder in doses of 1-5 grammes. While especially useful in the insomnia of insanity, there is little doubt that it will be found valuable in numerous cases in ordinary practice. The results of numerous experiments with this drug by M. Mathes have recently been published in the *Centralblatt für Klinische Medizin*, and confirm the good opinion of it expressed by Dr. Garnier, showing especially that it exerts no prejudicial effect on the essential vital organs, and that it is contra-indicated only in insomnia due to irritating cough, or to pain evidently not neuralgic; in many true neuralgias, however, it seems to be most useful.

DIAGNOSTIC BACTERIOLOGY.—Weichselbaum has recently shown, in two cases at the Rudolph Hospital in Vienna, the great diagnostic importance of bacteriology. The first case was that of a workman who had suffered from articular rheumatism for fifteen days. The tibio-tarsal articulation was swollen, and the temperature of the patient was $40.3^{\circ}C$. After the administration of salicylate of soda the temperature fell, and the pains diminished, but soon took on their former intensity. After five days the left knee-joint became affected, and in a few days a small pustule appeared. The spleen was enlarged, and the inguinal glands engorged. Weichselbaum examined some blood taken from the finger, and found the bacilli of glanders. A few days after this it was learned that three horses of the employer of the patient were dead of glanders. The patient died twenty-two days after entering the hospital. Weichselbaum found glanders-gran-