

quinine ordered every three hours until thirty more grains were taken. That evening temperature was still normal, and urine had cleared up completely, and no longer showed the presence of red corpuscles. A few days later a tonic pill was prescribed consisting of iron, quinine, nuxvomica. At the time of this writing, August 19th, patient is well.—A. R. TRAHAN, M.D., in *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*.

Euchlorine in Diphtheria.—L. D. L. Ellis (*Brit. Med. Jour.*) strongly advocates its use. About xx. gr. to xxx. gr. of pot. chlor. with 10 minims of strong HCl will fill an eight-ounce bottle with sufficient heavy, yellow gas to make a good solution on shaking up with water. If the bottle is damp the reaction is useless, as the resulting gas in solution does little good. I dilute the solution if necessary, and in some cases have neutralized the free HCl before using. The mixture can be made palatable by adding glycerine and sp. chlor., and is readily taken by children too young to gargle, by a few drops every half-hour, but it is very efficacious when used as a spray. As a gargle for children, a much weaker solution than the one given will do as well.—*Archives of Pediatrics*.

Facts regarding the Bacillus Aerogenes Capsulatus.—We have already on two occasions in these columns referred to the pathogenicity of the bacillus aerogenes capsulatus, and to the symptoms and lesions to which it is capable of giving rise in the bodies of men and animals. Examples of infection in human beings are now being reported from different quarters, and it seems probable that they are not so uncommon as was at first believed. P. Ernst, of Heidelberg (*Virchow's Archiv*, Band cxxxiii, Hefte 2), records two interesting cases. The first was that of a woman of twenty-six, who had aborted at the fourth month, the fetus being partially decomposed. Septic endometritis followed and soon proved fatal. At the autopsy, made three hours after death, the walls of the uterus were found to be partly gangrenous and to contain bubbles of gas. Scattered throughout the liver and heart-muscle were narcotic nodules surrounding cavities filled with gas, and bubbles of gas could be seen in the blood-vessels all over the body. The second case was that of

a man, fifty-five years of age, who died of peritonitis subsequent to perforation of the intestine. After death, bubbles of gas were found in the blood-vessels everywhere, and the liver was thickly studded with little cavities containing gas (*Schaum-leber*). The bacilli were particularly abundant wherever the gas was present, and Ernst, by anaerobic cultures and experiments on animals, proved the organism to be identical with that described by Welch and Nuttall.

The description of an unusually interesting case has recently appeared in the *Columbus Medical Journal*. A woman of thirty-five, a patient of Dr. S. H. Steward, was suddenly seized one morning with a severe chill. This was followed by pain of such intensity in the back and in the right leg and thigh as to require for its relief the administration of morphia. About ten hours after the onset, the subcutaneous tissues of the body from head to foot became emphysematous, and the surface of the skin assumed a diffuse scarlet discoloration. The woman complained of feeling numb and bloated, and her urine was suppressed. She died quite suddenly some fourteen hours after the initial rigour, although conscious and capable of carrying on conversation up to within three minutes of her death. After death, the gaseous distention rapidly increased and became extreme; the ruby-red discoloration of the skin gradually changed to a yellowish-brown tint. Dr. J. F. Baldwin, who was consulted with regard to the case, suggested the possibility of an infection with the gas-bacillus, and urged that a post-mortem examination be made. At the autopsy, inflammable gas was found everywhere, the blood-vessels especially showing the characteristic beaded appearance. The uterus gave evidence of a recent abortion, and no doubt represented the portal of infection. Dr. Graham examined the blood bacteriologically, found the bacilli, and was able to reproduce by injection into animals the typical phenomena with which our readers are already familiar. This case goes far to confirm the view previously advanced that the numerous cases recorded as instances of death due to entrance of air into the uterine veins after abortions and injections have really been instances of infection with the bacillus aerogenes capsulatus.

It is curious to note that similar cases were recorded, more than a century ago, by John