

TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS.

W. H. Hughes, M.D., in the *Medical Bulletin*, in an article entitled "Treatment of Phthisis," writes: While there has been advancement in the knowledge of the cause and symptoms of phthisis, the treatment has not progressed sufficiently to enable us to control its terrible effects to any degree. Having a large number of applicants suffering from this malady he has adopted, after devoting considerable time and study to the various modes of treatment, a method which he has employed in practice and from which he has obtained valuable results. The agent he employs is petroleum mass. It acts as an anodyne alternative, and reduces the irritation and inflammation of the bronchi and trachea, relieves the cough, and by its healing and soothing qualities prevents further destruction of the organ. When an abscess has formed, a cicatrix may be secured which enables the lung to resist the deposits from becoming embedded in the tissues, and prevents the formation of additional abscesses. Out of nearly one hundred cases Dr. Hughes has treated during the last thirteen months, there were but three whom this remedy would not relieve. Seven died, and sufferings were greatly relieved by the use of this remedy. The formula used is petroleum mass, one ounce; powdered cubeb and deer's powder, each half an ounce; sulphate of cinchonidia, two drachms; make into pill mass. Divide into four grain pills; one every three or four hours. The following results are to be expected from its use: Diminished expectoration, alleviation of the cough, cessation of night sweats, disappearance of tightness and soreness of the chest, gradual restoration of appetite, digestion and strength. As no living thing can exist in petroleum oil, may not the favorable results of this remedy be due to its action on the microscopic parasite?—*Chicago Med. Rev.*

MINIMUM DOSES OF IODIDE POTASSIUM IN FRONTAL HEADACHES.

Dr. Haley draws attention to the powerful anticephalagic properties of this drug when used in small doses. As a rule, a heavy, dull headache situated over the brows, and accompanied by languor, chilliness, and a feeling of general discomfort, with distaste for food, which sometimes approaches to nausea, can be entirely removed in about ten minutes by a two-grain dose of iodide of potassium dissolved in about half a wineglassful of water, this being quietly sipped, so that the whole quantity is consumed in about ten minutes. This class of headache seems to have no particular or definite cause, belonging apparently to the class of sympathetic headaches. In many cases the effect of these small doses is simply wonderful, and their great advantage is the rapidity with which they act.—*Australian Medical Journal.*

BORACIC ACID OINTMENT.

M. J. L. Championnière recommends an ointment made of vaseline and boracic acid as an antiseptic mixture, which can be preserved indefinitely, and is of great value, being non-irritating.

It forms a bland ointment suitable for superficial ulcers or wounds which are not to be irritated; it is applied on a cloth, on salicylated or absorbent cotton batting.

It can be used with advantage as an application for eczema and intertrigo, which, although not parasitic, give rise to lesions containing and keeping them. There is no better topical remedy for the erythema of the buttocks of infants. It is an ointment always clean and aseptic to grease the finger and instruments. Wherever there is an irritated wound it is a most valuable topical application.

Boracic acid is a less energetic antiseptic than carbolic acid; but its action is nevertheless powerful. The author has successfully employed it in very fetid eczemas, and in fetid sweating of the feet. After washing the feet the ointment is applied in the interdigital spaces; the effect is very good.

The following is the formulæ of the ointment:

Boracic acid, finely powdered.....1 part.

Vaseline.....5 parts.

The acid must be very finely powdered and sifted, and not dissolved in glycerine or alcohol, as this renders the mixture irritating.—*Jour. de Med. et de Chirurg. Prat.*

DEFICIENT KIDNEY-ACTION IN ECZEMA.

Dr. L. Duncan Buckley (*New York Med. Record*) states that deficient kidney-action is a common symptom of eczema of the anus and genitals. In this disease the urine is seldom that of health. The most varied conditions may be reported, but a most common one is a copious deposit of amorphous urates. Frequent and imperative micturition is not at all uncommon, and the repeated calls to urinate at night and the itching will often act and react upon each other, rendering sleep almost impossible. For this condition Dr. B. recommends:

R Potass. acetatis..... ʒ j;
Tinct. nucis vomicæ..... 3 ij;
Infus. quassiaë..... ʒ iv.

M. Teaspoonful after eating, in water.

This is often continued during the entire course of treatment. A large amount of oxalate of lime is sometimes found in the urine of eczematous patients. The oxaluria may be quickly relieved by strong nitric acid, internally, in doses of about two drops taken after each meal.