

## TURPENTINE IN THROAT AND LUNG AFFECTIONS.

Dr. Spohn (*Med. and Surg. Rep.*) says: I have been using pure oil of turpentine in affections of the throat and lungs for some time, and find better, and more satisfactory results, than from any other remedy I ever tried. I use the ordinary hand atomizer, and throw a spray of the liquid into the throat every few minutes, or at longer intervals, according to the gravity of the case. The bulb of the instrument should be compressed as the act of inspiration commences, so as to insure the application of the remedy to the whole surface, which can be done in cases of children very successfully. It is surprising how a diphtheritic membrane will melt away under an almost constant spray of pure oil of turpentine. I now use the turpentine spray whenever a child complains of sore throat of any kind.

In cases of tuberculosis of the lungs, bronchitis, and the later stages of pneumonia, I have found the turpentine inhalation very beneficial. I use an atomizer, or paper funnel, from which the turpentine may be inhaled at will. I hang around the bed, and in the room, flannel cloths saturated with the oil of turpentine, in all cases of catarrhal bronchitis—in fact, in all affections of the air passage; and my patients invariably express themselves as being very much relieved.

Erosions are treated with the unmitigated ichthyol which is applied by means of a camel-hair pencil. Usually good results follow quickly. Pruritus yields to one of the foregoing preparations, or a 10 per cent solution of the remedy in water. The internal exhibition is productive of equally good results constitutionally.

The results obtained by the intra-vaginal method are phenomenal. These remarkable results are attributable to the sorbefacient action of ichthyol. Extensive cicatrices in the vaginal walls consequent to the excessive use of escharotics, disappeared in a short time, whilst parametritic cicatrices became thin, yielding and dilatable. An extensive exudate in Douglas' cul-de-sac which still occasioned abnormal temperature, disappeared after a sixteen-days course of treatment. In a case of gonorrhoeal salpingitis, in which both tubes had for years been transformed into large, hard immobile tumors, the pathological condition improved wonderfully. The right tube evacuated itself completely, while the left tube could after a short time be localized as a circumscribed tumor, which was entirely disconnected from the uterus. Besides being a powerful sorbefacient ichthyol is said to possess anodyne properties, which are most evident when it is applied in the various peri-metritic conditions causing rectal tenesmus.—*Pittsburgh Medical Review.*

## EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS CONCERNING SUPPURATION.

In a recent thesis Dr. J. de C. Holmfeld discusses the causation of suppuration, and reaches the following conclusions: In all cases of warm abscesses in men submitted to bacteriological examination the existence of microorganisms in the pus has been demonstrated. These microorganisms are few in number and well marked. Rosenbach has described them under the following names: *Staphylococcus pyogenes aureus*, *staphylococcus pyogenes albus*, *micrococcus pyogenes tennis*, *streptococcus pyogenes*. But besides the suppuration due to the presence of microbes, we are able to produce in animals suppuration that is purely chemical and entirely independent of microbes. The author has inoculated, with the greatest antiseptic precautions, the following substances: Essence of turpentine, petroleum, chloride of zinc in 10 per cent. solution, glycerine, and nitrate of silver in 5 per cent. solution. These substances, which produce no appreciable effect upon the rabbit, produce considerable suppuration in the dog. The microscope discovers not the slightest trace of microorganisms in the pus; bouillon and gelatine remain absolutely sterile. These experiments prove that the suppuration is by no means dependent upon the presence of microorganisms in the tissues. The author therefore raises the question whether the suppurative action of the pyogenic microorganisms in the tissues is not dependent upon the presence of irritating substances in the products of secretion or in the bodies of the microbes themselves, for we are able to extract from the cultures and from the body of the *staphylococcus aureus* several chemical substances which are capable of producing a very pronounced pyogenic effect. The author concludes that acute suppuration should be considered as the result of chemical influences upon the organism.—*Gaz. Med. de Paris.—Jour. of Am. Med. Ass.*

## CRACKED NIPPLES.

Dr. Ivan A. Mitropolsky, Moscow, (*St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.*) recommends chloral in the treatment of fissured and excoriated nipples. The latter should be kept covered with compresses (soft linen) soaked in a solution of half a drachm of chloral in three ounces of water. The compresses should be changed every two and a half or three hours. When a prolonged application is necessary, it is advisable to use a weaker solution, one-half drachm to six ounces). The solution leaves a thin, whitish, firmly adherent film over the diseased surface, which does not disappear by suckling. Pain and tenderness are said to be strikingly relieved almost immediately; the lesions rapidly healing. Chloral compresses do not have bad effects on nurslings.—*Medical Standard.*