

cylate of soda and gentian are of great benefit at the same time.\*

#### IODIDE OF LEAD IN PUERPERAL MASTITIS.

The breast is smeared with iodide of lead ointment, then covered with a piece of lint soaked in an alcoholic solution of acetate of lead (3 ij.—3 iv. to the Oj.) The lint should be frequently moistened, and in three or four hours the breast may be completely emptied by an experienced hand; the ointment should be used as a lubricant during the manipulation. By applying the iodide freely twice or thrice daily, the secretion will have ceased in less than a week, as a rule. A point of considerable moment is the partial anæsthesia produced, thus enabling the gland to be emptied without producing any acute pain. †

#### CHROMIC ACID IN CERTAIN TONGUE AFFECTIONS.

From a hint in Sir James Paget's Clinical Lectures and Essays, a work which truly every practitioner should read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest, Mr. Butlin, found that chromic acid was a most useful application, not only in gouty psoriasis, as Paget recommended it, but in other affections as well. He made use of it, therefore in a form of chronic glossitis due to excessive smoking and drinking often combined with syphilis. Cases of syphilitic ulcer of the tongue improved rapidly when treated by this agent. From experience of twenty cases the following conclusions were drawn. Chromic acid cures with marvellous rapidity, secondary affections, ulcers, mucous tubercles, condylomata.

It produces no effect on tertiary affections, gummata, extensive ulcers, tubercular syphilides. Some cases of chronic superficial glossitis, where slight ulceration and renewed inflammation has occurred improve quickly under its influence. Other cases of glossitis, in which the tongue

surface is attacked by a fresh inflammation of great severity, so far from improving appear actually to be rendered worse by chromic acid. Glycerin of boracic acid and soothing remedies are more suitable for such conditions. The strength in which the chromic acid has been almost invariably employed has been ten grains to one ounce of water. In a few instances 15 grains have been ordered. The patient has been told to paint the diseased portion of the tongue three or four times a day with a camel's hair brush dipped in the solution. Pain or discomfort from the application had seldom been complained of; and even if there has been a little smarting at first, this has cheerfully been borne on account of the relief which the solution has afforded. It is very useful in secondary affections of the tonsils and palate.\*

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MEDICINE, PHYSIOLOGY, ETC., TO THE ONT. MED. ASSOCIATION.

##### THE TUBERCLE BACILLUS.

Within two years, Koch, of Berlin, announced his discovery of a specific cause for pulmonary phthisis in the tubercle bacillus. There being too large a supply of credulity in the ordinary medical mind, this was too readily accepted. Many rushed off to carbolic acid as the specific in therapeutics. The other side of the question has now been heard from. It comes from the Vienna School. Dr. Spina—who has long been chief assistant to Stricker, and whose capability cannot therefore be questioned—maintains, as the result of his observation, that the form of the bacillus is variable, such variation depending on the tissue and the local conditions. The objection is a fatal one if the variation of form be considerable. The form of a specific animalcule in general has a fixity of form by which it is known. Considerable variation in this shows, unless otherwise explainable, that it

\* S. B. James, *British Medical Journal*, Vol. I., 1883, p. 511.

† Dr. Gaunt, in the *British Medical Journal*, March, 1883, p. 494.

\* *The Practitioner*, March, 1883.