

showed that in those treated with bismuth the defects healed more rapidly. Digestion can go on while the bismuth deposit is present. If an artificial digestion, however, be shaken up with bismuth, pepsin will be carried down by the bismuth and digestion is thus hindered. The author says that both experimentally and clinically Fleiner's method of treatment is practically and theoretically correct with the exception of the question of position (in reference to the site of the ulcer), which he shows to have no influence in regard to the subsequent deposition of the bismuth.—*Provincial Medical Journal*.

Nitro-Glycerine in Sciatica. Dr. Lawrence (*Revista de Ciencias Medicas de Barcelona*) reports the case of a carpenter of fifty two years, who suffered for several years with sciatica. In order to alleviate the pain, he had become a morphine user, and could not abandon the habit. After trying a multitude of drugs, he gave him a 1.100 solution of nitro glycerine, one drop three times a day, gradually increasing the dose to five drops. Relief was almost immediate, and in ten days he could resume his work, completely cured.—*Lancet-Clinic*.

The External Use of Salicylic Acid.—Dr. Ruel, of Geneva, recommends the external use of salicylic acid in rheumatism. He says that: 1st. Salicylic acid is rapidly absorbed by the skin. 2nd. After so applied, it promptly appears in the urine. 3rd. It possesses a positive curative action in rheumatism. He found that the best results were realized when the salt was dissolved in alcohol with about double its volume of castor oil. In the form of a liniment it is the best that has been supplied to our pharmacopœia in years. M Ruel's customary formula is:

B. Acidi salicylici	20 grammes.
Alcohol absolute	100
Ol. ricini	200

This is to be applied on a flannel, which is to be covered with some impermeable material, morning and evening. In certain solutions a small quantity of chloroform may be added—say 5 per cent. This addition serves as an analgesic, besides, it favours the absorption of the medicament. About twenty minutes after the salicylic is so employed

it can be found in the urine, and a few minutes after a salicylic liniment is applied pain vanishes, and is replaced by a sense of warmth and comfort. Olive oil may be substituted for castor oil. In lumbago and painful muscular affections, chloroform and opium may be added. *Medical Record*.

SURGERY.

Ichthyol in Diseases of the Genito-Urinary Tract. Dr. Lohnstein (*Allgemeine Med. Central Zeitung*, No. 103, 1893) has employed ichthyol in genito urinary affections, and comes to the following conclusions:

1. Ichthyol is an excellent remedy in acute urethritis, in a $\frac{1}{2}$ to two per cent. solution in warm injections, and even in cases where the mucous membrane is especially irritable.

2. In subacute anterior urethritis, and above all, in superficial circumscribed affections, it renders excellent service if it can be applied locally through the endoscope.

3. In infiltrating forms of chronic urethritis it is inactive, but, on the contrary, it will be of value if alternated with mechanical measures of treatment.

4. In prostatitis, in the form of suppositories, in doses of three to five dgms. (five to seven grains) it removes the inflammatory and irritative phenomena.

5. In pyelitis and nephritis it exerts no beneficial action.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*.

A Case of Alopecia Areata, Producing Universal Baldness.—On Dec. 20th, I was consulted by N. M., aged 20 years, who related the following history:

Five years ago, after the occurrence of sharp pains over the entire scalp, a small spot on the head suddenly became bald. Others quickly followed, and in three months every hair had fallen from the head, leaving it of a pearly whiteness.

Then followed loss of eye-brows, eye-lashes, and in the six months following every hair on the body had been shed. A thin and downy growth on head had followed in one year from its loss, but was speedily shed again.

The case upon inspection presents a striking appearance, not the slightest trace of a hair being discovered. Even the dorsal aspect of the fingers