

manifesting symptoms of irritation, which, in connection with the "matchy" taste soon evolved in eructations, often engender a disgust to its further continuance. On the other hand, experience with the phosphide of zinc has proven that it enters the circulation far more readily than the element, and in doses of from one-eighth to one-twelfth of a grain produces its curative influence far more rapidly, and is equally as permanent in therapeutic power.

It has been found extremely serviceable in neuralgia, in angina, in loss of memory and impotence, in loss of sleep from combined mental anxiety, and generally in those nervous affections that owe their origin to exhaustion and depression of the nerve force. Dr. Hammond's formula is one-sixteenth grain phosphide of zinc with one-fourth grain of extract of nuxvomica, made into a pill.—*Buffalo Med. and Surg. Journal.*

TREATMENT OF URTICARIA.

Dr. L. Duncan Bulkley, in *Archiv. Dermatology*, says that in the treatment of urticaria he has commonly afforded much relief by the external application of a tolerably weak solution of bicarbonate of soda (3 ij. to 3 vj. to the pint) with a little glycerine, the surface to be bathed with this morning and night, and to be subsequently lightly dusted with starch or rice powder. Carbolic acid (3 ij.—3 iv. to the pint) gives much relief. The *liquor picis alkalinus*, diluted with ten to twenty parts of water and used as a wash, will often afford perfect relief. The formula for this preparation of tar is:

Tar.....	2 drachms.
Caustic potassa.....	1 drachm.
Water.....	5 drachms.

Dissolve the potash in the water and add slowly to the tar in a mortar with friction. Baths are often of the greatest service, especially the *alkali and starch bath*. This is made as follows:

Carbonate potassa.....	3 ounces.
Carbonate of soda.....	2 drachms.
Powdered borax.....	1 ounce.

Mix. Use one such powder for a thirty-gallon bath, with from one-quarter to one half pound of starch. The surface may afterwards be anointed with cosmoline, containing from five to ten grains of carbolic acid to each ounce. When the itching is uncontrollable, the *chloral camphor ointment* will surely give relief. This is prepared thus:

Chloral hydrate.....	1 drachm.
Camphor.....	1 "
Rose ointment.....	1 ounce.

Rub well together the camphor and chloral in a mortar until a liquid results, and add to it the rose ointment. It should not be forgotten

that irritating underclothing may excite and keep up urticaria, and in severe cases, silk garments should be worn next the skin, or a very thin muslin may be interposed beneath a woolen shirt or drawers. In addition to the local treatment, hygienic and dietetic as well as constitutional treatment should be employed.

QUININE FOR CHILDREN.

It is probable that a very large proportion of the sulphate of quinine prescribed for the diseases of children is not administered as prescribed. The child objects to it on account of its bitterness, the nurse neglects to give it on account of the child's objection, the doctor does not observe the effects which he had anticipated, and is disappointed. Fortunately, the difficulty may be entirely overcome by the substitution of the neutral tannate of quinine for the sulphate. Five grains of the former equal two grains of the latter. The neutral tannate, moreover, is thought to be not inferior to the sulphate. However this may be, the absence of difficulty in its administration, and the consequent fact that it will generally be administered according to directions, would compensate for any possible inferiority of this sort as compared with the sulphate. It is tasteless, insoluble in water, and should be given in syrup or jelly. Its adoption entirely obviates all of the usual objections to the administration of quinine for children. It is a matter of surprise that its use is not more nearly universal.—*Chicago Medical Gazette.*

THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD,

A Monthly Journal of Medicine and Pharmacy

EDITOR:

FRANCIS W. CAMPBELL, M.A., M.D., L.R.C.P., LOND.

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SUBSCRIPTION TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

All communications and Exchanges must be addressed to the Editor, Drawer 356, Post Office, Montreal.

MONTREAL, MAY, 1880.

The breeze, which for the last couple of months has stirred the Medical politics of Montreal, in connection with a vacancy which it was believed would occur in the attending staff of the Montreal General Hospital, though it has all but died away, has left behind it a few lessons which it may be worth while to glance at. The presumed vacancy, it was believed,