

WHILE cross-examining Dr. Warren, a New York counsel declared that doctors ought to be able to give an opinion of a disease without making mistakes.

"They make fewer mistakes than lawyers," responded the physician.

"That's not so," said the counsel; "but doctors' mistakes are buried six feet under ground, and lawyers' are not."

"No," replied Warren, "but they are sometimes hung as many feet above ground."—*Montreal Legal News*.

A NEW METHOD OF TREATMENT OF PNEUMOTHORAX FOLLOWING PENETRATING WOUNDS OF THE CHEST WALL.—O. Witzel, Bonn (*Centralblatt f. Chirurgie*, No. 28, 1890). Attention is called to the extreme dangers arising from attempts to remove the air from the cavity of the chest in this class of cases on the one hand, and the risks of setting up suppurative inflammation, should it be permitted to remain, on the other. W. recommends the following course: A large male rubber catheter is passed into the wound and the latter firmly sutured about the same until the opening is both air and water tight, with the exception of a point left open for the escape of the air. The catheter is connected with the nozzle of an irrigator, and the cavity of the chest slowly filled with a weak boric acid solution, of the temperature of the body, the air escaping from the point of opening above mentioned. By lowering the irrigator, after the chest is filled and the air ceases to escape, the fluid is siphoned out, the air exit being at the same time held tightly closed and the catheter removed, while a number of temporary sutures, previously placed upon either side of the catheter, are drawn tightly together and tied.

STERILIZATION OF WATER.—The conclusions of Charles C. Currier, M.D., in a paper on the above topic, are as follows: Unless extraordinarily resistant, water becomes sterilized if it be at or near the boiling temperature for fifteen minutes. If the same degree of heat be maintained for five minutes, all harmful micro-organisms will have been destroyed.

Still less time serves to destroy the disease-producing varieties which are recognized as being liable to occur in water. Thus, merely raising to the boiling point, a clear water containing micro-organisms of malarial disorders, typhoid, cholera, diphtheria, or of suppurative processes, and allowing it to gradually cool, insures the destruction of these germs. They are also destroyed by keeping the water from a quarter to half an hour at a temperature of 70° C. Occasionally, however, very resistant but harmless bacteria may get into the water. The brief heating renders them safe for drinking purposes; but when it is desired to destroy every micro-organism that may be present in contaminated water, it should be heated for one hour and allowed to cool slowly. Then it may be used for cleansing wounds or for alkaloid solutions which will keep sufficiently if no germs be introduced after the solution has been heated.—*Sanitary News*.

TREATMENT OF SPASM OF THE GLOTTIS.—M. Kurt at the Vienna Medical Society, reported a case in which spasm of the glottis was relieved by excitation of the pituitary membrane. A child of 6 years of age, with whooping cough, was attacked quite often with violent convulsions. M. Kurt noticed that it was only necessary, in this case to slightly irritate the conjunctiva or the nasal mucous membrane to arrest the attack. He concluded that an excitation of the terminal filaments of the trigeminal exercises an inhibitory action of the recurrent laryngeal. Since then he has tried this expedient in spasm of the glottis. When an attack comes on it is instantly arrested by tickling the pituitary mucous membrane with a feather. To render the excitation more active the feather may be dipped into a solution of sulphate of quinine. Furthermore, this excitation not only cures short the attack, but in relieving the spasms it arrests or ameliorates the disease which produces them. He showed an infant, 8 months old, which six months previously had laryngeal spasm. During the last fifteen days he had 10 grave attacks daily. Two applications were made in the nose,