

decidedly preferable, and if it is dissolved by heat and a little spirit added it keeps very well except in cold weather, when it should be kept in a room with a fire. A small quantity only should be prepared at a time.

HYDRASTININE IN UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.—Gottschalk, *Brooklyn Med. Journal*, says hydrastinine may be employed :

1. First of all, in those uterine hæmorrhages which are traceable to a pronounced congestion of the uterus. To these belong, above all, the often very profuse menorrhagias of spinsters, in whom there is no pathological change in the condition of the genitals. In some of these cases it is possible to obtain a permanent result, so that even after discontinuing the remedy the menstrual flow remains smaller.

2. Also in hæmorrhages which have their pathological and anatomical cause in endometritis, hydrastinine will lessen the quantity of blood ; but here, according to Gottschalk's experience, the action is only palliative, not being sufficient alone to cure the local cause of the trouble.

3. For prophylactic or intermenstrual use, hydrastinine is useful before or during the first returning profuse menstruation after an abrasion of the uterine mucosa. It is well known that this menstruation, occurring after six weeks, is often very profuse. In the very cases where there was a great loss of blood before the operation, it is of great importance to prevent further profuse hæmorrhage. This is possible if the treatment with hydrastinine is begun several days before the expected menstruation, and, if necessary, continued during the duration of the menstruation.

4. Menorrhagias caused by retroflexio uteri are best treated by correction of the malposition ; but for cases of fixed retroflexion, where the reposition is not yet possible, hydrastinine is a commendable remedy.

5. Secondly, uterine hæmorrhages, i. e., those caused by a change of the adnexa and their surroundings—offer a large field for the successful use of hydrastinine. To these belong the menorrhagia and metrorrhagia with pyosalpinx, oophoritis, ovarian tumors and exudations. Of course the cause of the trouble is not influenced by the remedy.

6. Climacteric menorrhagias are much diminished by a faithfully carried out hydrastinine treatment.

#### ETHERIZATION OF INCARCERATED HERNIAS.—

Since 1891 Gussenbauer has successfully made use of Finklestein's method of treating incarcerated hernia, *Therap. Monatshefte*. This consists in dropping ether (one to two tablespoonfuls every quarter of an hour) upon the hernial ring and the tumor, the skin over these places having been previously anointed with vaseline to prevent irritation from the ether. This is employed from one to three hours in connection with elevation of the pelvis and gentle taxis. Among 135 cases treated during this period this treatment was indicated in but 31, in the others owing to the long duration of the strangulation and the violent symptoms (marked tympanites, impending or developing gangrene), herniotomy was resorted to. Of these 31 cases 25 were treated by the ether method, the remainder by simple pelvic elevation and application of ice. The application of ether was successful in 20 cases (16 inguinal, 1 parumbilical, and 3 crural hernias), while in five cases it was necessary to subsequently perform herniotomy. In three cases spontaneous reduction occurred without taxis, one patient reduced the hernia himself ; in the other cases reduction was effected with the aid of gentle taxis, usually in two to three hours. Finklestein's method acts best if employed as soon after the occurrence of incarceration as possible, and is especially adapted for the use of the country practitioner.

POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE AS AN ANTIDOTE TO OPIUM AND ITS ALKALOIDS.—It is related that a physician of New York, *Med. News*, recently demonstrated, in the presence of a number of colleagues, in his own person the efficacy of potassium permanganate as an antidote to morphine. He is said to have swallowed three grains of morphine sulphate in solution, and immediately afterward four grains of potassium permanganate dissolved in four ounces of water, without the development of the usual effects of morphine. It is maintained that morphine, or any of the salts of opium, is immediately rendered inert by contact with potassium permanganate, the one drug seeming to have a special affinity for the other, the one being a re-