

small calibre incomplete. (4) The apparatus devised by the writer enables one to render all sizes of catheters absolutely sterile in from ten to twenty-five minutes without any injury to the catheters, by the use of a strong vapor of pure trioxymethylene powder.—KATZENSTEIN, *Berliner klinische Wochenschrift*, September 10, 1900

SPINAL ABSCESS.—Do not wait to open a spinal abscess until the skin is reddened and involved. So far as possible open the abscess at certain seats of election, *i.e.*, away from the groin, and make more than one opening if possible. Carefully cleanse the cavity and rub the interior thoroughly with menthol or iodoform solution. Avoid drains of all kinds, and be careful to carry out perfect aseptic measures from first to last. Some patients improve by rest alone, the fluid portion of the pus becoming absorbed, but in many cases the abscess makes its way toward the surface, and then operation should be performed at once, before the skin and subcutaneous tissue have become infected by tubercle, or a persistent sinus may remain.—A. H. TUBBY, quoted in *Medical Times and Hospital Gazette*, February 23d.

TO ARREST SMALLPOX.—I first scrub the skin of the forearms and hands with a strongly alkaline soap and water, in order to remove the oil naturally existing in the epidermis. Then I wash the skin with alcohol to kill germs and also to remove oil. Next the skin is washed with a 1 : 500 solution of bichloride of mercury. Then it is washed with a solution of peroxide of hydrogen. Each of these washings is of ten or fifteen minutes' duration. Finally the parts are well wrapped in a thick envelope of borated cotton. The washing is repeated daily for three days. I would suggest, in addition, that the face and other parts to which the bath is inapplicable, should be treated by disinfectants spread on lint and applied to the skin. Also, when the patient is found poisoned by purulent infection, I should not hesitate to recommend the subcutaneous injection of antistreptococcic serum, and the administration of cathartics which have the power to produce watery alvine evacuations. For this latter purpose the sulphate of magnesium would stand foremost. Also digitalis and frequent draughts of water should be used to induce copious diuresis, thereby discharging ptomaines, as would the catharsis just mentioned.—ALONZO BRYAN, *The Physician and Surgeon*, January, 1901.

PULSATILLA is the remedy *par excellence* for headaches at the menstrual epoch.—*Med. Summary*.

THE monobromate of camphor is suggested in acute nasal catarrh.

HABITUAL CONSTIPATION.—I wish to call the attention of the profession to the following statements: 1. A certain percentage of individuals suffering from habitual constipation are apt to have a spontaneous movement of the bowels the following day after the stomach has been washed for the first time. 2. The majority of such patients will eventually recover the normal function of their bowels, if lavage is continued daily for two or three weeks, and later at greater intervals. 3. The best results are obtained from using cold water, or hot and cold water alternately. 4. The best time for such lavage is one hour before breakfast.—C. D. SPIVAK, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, April 13th.