

THE TREATMENT OF BURNS.—

In an article upon the employment of picric acid in the treatment of burns (*Gaz. Hebdom. de Méd. et de Chir.*), Dr. Beauxis-Lagrange concludes: (1) Cicatrization of burns is more rapid with the picric-acid dressing, 5-1,000, than with any other means of treatment. The rapidity of cicatrization does not depend upon previous disinfection, since the liquid employed is sufficiently antiseptic in itself. (2) The picric acid calms the pains almost instantly. (3) The slight discoloration which the drug leaves upon the hands of the operator after its employment is not of itself a sufficient reason for not using it. (4) Picric acid is a precious drug, by reason of its low price compared with the high price of iodoform gauze; this is a very considerable advantage, if we bear in mind that almost always the victims of these accidents are workmen. Half a litre sufficed in one instance

for the dressing of a limb burned from the toes to ten centimetres above the knee.

A NEW COMBUSTIBLE.—The *Cincinnati Enquirer* gives an account of a new compound, the invention of John Floyd, which ignites by the slightest friction against any hard surface. No explosion occurs, but the substance burns with a steady, blue flame, and gives out intense heat until consumed. There is no known substance that will extinguish it.

LEGAL OBJECTION TO VACCINATION.—The Supreme Court of Wisconsin has handed down the decision that a person who "deems vaccination morally wrong and in violation of the laws of God" is exempt from compulsory vaccination in that State.



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