

tincture of catechu when diarrhoea was persistent. The strength of the solution used was one part carbolic acid to two hundred of water, with the addition of a little tincture of opium. In his article on the above, recorded in *Berlin Klin. Wochenschrift* (No. 11, 1873), the author does not venture on any explanation of the drug's action, whether due to direct local influence or to its effects through the medium of the blood. Out of eighty cases thus treated only two ended in death.

TREATMENT OF INFANTILE CHOLERA.

In *Jahrbuch für Kinderheilk.* (Jahrg. vi., Heft 2, 1873), Dr. Wertheimer, of Munich, advocates, as the result of his extensive experience of diseases of children, the use of preparations of ammonia and China tea administered alternately in cases of the above. Besides their stimulating influence on the activity of the heart and slackened pulmonary circulation, the preparations of ammonia have the advantage of neutralising the acids developed in the stomach by the fermentation of non-digested milk. The tea acts energetically on the state of drowsiness, and causes the little patients to revive rapidly. At the same time, and as adjuvants, he employs large mustard plasters, and repeated friction with camphorated alcohol on the surface.

DEATH THROUGH GONORRHOEA AND CHORDEE.

This remarkable case occurred in the wards of Dr. Villeneuve, in one of the Marseilles hospitals. The patient was a man of twenty-three. The gonorrhoea was very intense, and accompanied by chordee and continual erections. Six leeches were applied to the root of the penis. Two days after an eschar formed on the most culminating situation of the penis, and, on failing, uncovered the corpora cavernosa and urethra to the extent of three or four centimetres. Rigor occurred five days after, followed by pain in the joints of the upper limbs. Some amendment ensued, but on the fifth day later purulent effusion in the left elbow was discovered; delirium then supervened, and the patient died after an arterial hemorrhage through the wound in the penis. At the post-mortem the following lesions were observed:—Denudation of the corpora, phlebitis of the prostatic plexus, metastatic abscesses in the liver and left lung, pus in the muscles and elbow joint of the right arm. The course of the disease had been as follows:—Urethritis, inflammation of the corpora, phlebitis of the plexus of the penis and prostate, pyæmia.

THE OXALATE OF PROTOXIDE OF IRON.

At a recent meeting of the Académie de Médecine (*Bull. de l'Académie*, Oct. 12) M. Caventon delivered in his report on this substance, which had been laid before the Academy two years since by M. Girard. The reporter stated that the mode of preparation recommended by M. Girard is in no wise different from that usually employed in laboratories. Its therapeutical properties have been carefully tested by M. Hérard in cases of chlorosis, anemia, and these prove to be worthy of attention, presenting a preparation of iron which, while proving efficacious, has no tendency to produce constipation. The preparation is almost insipid, is readily taken by patients,

and easily borne by the stomach. Given in doses of from ten to twenty centigrammes per diem it increases the strength and cures chloro-anæmia as well as other good preparations of iron, while it establishes a peculiar claim by not causing constipation. Indeed, by raising the quantity to from thirty to fifty centigrammes, an aperient action is obtained. M. Caventon considers that his remedy should be indorsed with the recommendation of the Academy, which is necessary for the authorization of new remedies during the intervals that elapse between the editions of the Codex.

QUINIA NOT AN OXYTOCIC.

Dr. A. D'Arcoud, ex-division surgeon of the French Army, now of Thebes, Alexander Co. Ill., writes that for over 25 years he has used quina in large doses for the cure of intermittent fever, in pregnant women as well as in other patients, without any symptoms of uterine disorder in the former resulting; and in 98 or 99 cases in a hundred the malarial affection has been controlled early, and such has been the result of this treatment in every latitude.

LIQUOR PICIS ALKALINUS.

Dr. L. D. Buckley, of New York, gives the following formula for this preparation, which was originally devised by his father: R Liquid pitch 3ij; caustic potash 3j; water ʒiv. Mix and dissolve for external use. This mixes with water in all proportions, and only moderately discolours the skin. It dries rapidly and leaves very little stickiness. He has used it in all degrees of strength, and regards it as the best preparation of tar.

TREATMENT OF CHILBLAINS.

F. Rhien recommends an aqueous solution of iodine and tannin as a remedy for chilblains. He says that the result exceeded his expectations—five applications of the remedy being successful. The application has also been tried by others with good results when properly applied. The solution is made as follows: About an ounce of tannin is dissolved in half a pint of water; seventy-four grains of iodine are dissolved in an ounce and three-fourths of spirit of wine; the two solutions are then mixed, and enough water is added to make up the whole to two and a half pints. The remedy is applied once daily, the best time being before going to bed. The mixture is gently warmed over a very slow fire; the affected part is dipped in it while still cold, and held there until the liquid, on being stirred, feels uncomfortably hot. The vessel is then removed from the fire, and the part is dried over it. The vessel used must be of earthenware or porcelain, not of metal. Care should be taken not to use too great a quantity of iodine, especially when abrasions are present.

METHYLENE ETHER.

Mr. T. Easter, dresser in the eye wards at Guy's Hospital, states that methylene ether has been administered ten times for operations on the eye, at Guy's Hospital. In five of the ten cases there was vomiting within five minutes of its being inhaled. The vomiting was slight in only

one of the five cases. Insensibility was generally produced in four minutes; two, three, or four drachms of the methylene ether being used to attain that state. Struggling and excitement occurred very much as with chloroform. Two patients, who had taken chloroform badly, were readily rendered insensible by the methylene ether. As a rule, the pulse became rather stronger; in one case it became very irregular. The operations were of the following kinds:—On the eyelids, 3; on the iris, 4; on the cornea, 1; on the sclerotic, 1; on the capsule of the lens, 1.

ACID BREATH IN DIABETES.

M. Duboué, of Pau, has observed a peculiar acid smell of the breath in four patients affected with diabetes. The symptom may be of use in certain cases where the existence of diabetes had not been previously suspected.

THE ABUSE OF CHLORAL.

We regret to say that from various quarters we have received trustworthy reports which leave no doubt that this very valuable medicine is being grossly abused by the public. Hydrate of chloral has received no more than its just praise from those medical writers who have described it as the best and safest soporific medicine in existence. But no medical authority has ever dreamed of sanctioning its employment except under direct medical order; yet the public are, to a large extent, taking it on their own responsibility. In this busy and distracting age the demand for sound and undisturbed sleep is one of the most urgent calls of jaded nature, and it is not unnatural that people should catch at anything which seems to promise to give repose with certainty and safety. This makes it all the more necessary that the public should be plainly told that chloral is no more to be administered safely by unskilled hands than is opium or strychnia. There are several ways in which its improper use may cause serious mischief. In the first place, a single overdose may cause death by failure of the circulation, and there seem to be very great differences between persons as to the dose which can be taken without any danger of this fatal catastrophe. The other possible evil results of chloral are chronic. Where it is taken without proper reasons repeatedly for a considerable time, it may produce either or both of the following effects: it may seriously affect the intelligence and memory, or it may produce partial paralysis of the limbs. The latter is a fact which we have not seen recorded anywhere, but is becoming known to observant practitioners, and will henceforward have to be reckoned as a possible consequence of the rash use of chloral.

Besides all these things, chloral is fully as guilty as opium or any other recognized narcotic of the tendency to render those who take it the slaves of habit; and we are not sure that the moral enfeeblement which it thus induces is not even greater than that of opium-eating, unless the latter be carried to great excess. In a word, chloral is a valuable medicine in the hands of a judicious doctor, but it is also a most dangerous plaything or luxury in the hands of people who merely wish to escape from the sleeplessness of anxiety or of fashionable ennui.—*Lancet*.