

removing the focus of the disease. The extirpation of inflamed inguinal glands is still more rarely successful and absolutely futile if deeper glands are involved.

2. He does not believe in the preventive treatment of syphilis by mercury, and thinks that the use of the remedy should be limited to hastening the healing of a serious primary sore, and to diminishing the danger of contagion, as in the case of a man with a family.

3. He considers the continuous mercurial treatment of Fournier by no means infallible, and for many cases superfluous, as demonstrated by several cases.

This method should be limited to certain indications, as to impending marriage or grave localization of the disease.

He further calls attention to the destructive influence of mercury on the digestion and on the nervous system.

In harmony with the majority of the specialists who attended the International Medical Congress, he refutes Fournier's statement that syphilis becomes "*presque fatalement tertiaire*" without a saturation of the system for years with mercury.

Mercury alone cannot cure syphilis in a person who was not previously healthy, unless the health is greatly improved by hygienic treatment. Upon the hygienic management he lays great stress.

In several individuals, who could not take mercury by the mouth, the rectal administration proved efficient and safe.—*Berliner klinische Wochenschrift—Medical News.*

PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN.—Peroxide of hydrogen is a drug which has been gradually and steadily gaining in favor, and which has yielded to each who has faithfully tried it, results so constant and so satisfactory that he has learned to depend upon it. As ordinarily found in the shops, peroxide of hydrogen is a 3.2 per cent. solution, yielding fifteen times its bulk of oxygen. This solution is far more potent than is water charged with fifteen times its volume of oxygen, since in the peroxide preparations the gas is given off in its nascent state and is peculiarly powerful in its chemical affinities.

There is abundant evidence as to the value of the peroxide, from both the clinical and the experimental standpoint. The number of those who have reported excellent results from its use is very large, and to this must be added the testimony of the bacteriologists, who find in this drug a potent and almost immediate germicide. It is devoid of septic properties, its worst effect being, when used in a too concentrated form, to cause some local pain and irritation. It is applicable in all cases where pus is present, and where the discharge is foul and profuse its effect is admirable. In suppurating otitis media, in purulent conjunctivitis, the

aurists and ophthalmologists have long prized it as one of their most valuable medicaments. In the sloughing inflammations following scarlet fever and diphtheria the laryngologists place great confidence in its powers. Surgeons, however, in whose work it might prove generally valuable, have been somewhat slow to recognize its virtues. But its use in a great variety of sloughing and suppurating cases, has given results better than those obtained from any other germicide, bichloride of mercury not excepted. Where the discharging area is represented by a surface of granulations, the drug can be applied by means of an atomizer. This enables a small quantity to reach every portion of the infected surface. In the case of a suppurating fistula or cavity the peroxide may be injected by means of a syringe. Immediately following its application to a purulent surface, an active effervescence goes on, and every particle of pus which it reaches is destroyed. Not only this, but the microbes, the active agents of pus formation, are also devitalized, so that a large surface can sometimes be rendered aseptic by one or two thorough applications. Even if this result is not reached, the discharge is greatly lessened, and it is by no means uncommon to see a case, in which the pus had amounted to drachms, so favorably affected that the dressings contain but a few drops of purulent matter.

The strength in which the fifteen-volume solution is used will vary with individual cases. It can be employed without harm in full strength. Where this is painful, one, two, or four parts of water may be added.—*University Magazine.*

DOES SWEET OIL REMOVE GALL STONES.—Most striking results are at times obtained from the administration of sweet oil in cases of hepatic colic. A pint or so of sweet oil (or, in some cases, of other bland oils) is administered to a patient who has been for some time suffering from this form of colic, and some hours later an evacuation of the bowels takes place with the expulsion of numerous green masses believed to be gall-stones. At any rate the patient feels greatly relieved, and may remain free from colic for years. In the Medical Society of North Carolina an interesting discussion arose on a paper presented by Dr. Burbank (*North Carolina Medical Journal*, June and August, 1890), touching the value of sweet oil in this affection. Dr. Burbank stated positively that the green masses referred to are not gall-stones at all; that they are composed of soap (formed from the oil and the alkalies of the bile), of oil which is in excess, and of bile pigments and very small quantities of chlosterin—the latter constituent forming less than one per cent. of the green masses, whereas it forms seventy or eighty per cent. of gall-stones; that examination, in patients with thin-walled abdomens, proved beyond a doubt