

The Treatment of Obstruction of the Bowel by Electricity.—Althaus (*British Medical Journal*) has reported the case of a man, fifty-four years old, who for three months had suffered with obstinate constipation. At the time of coming under observation the bowels had not been moved for ten days, and the abdomen was distended and tender. The appetite was lost, and a condition of collapse existed, with sunken face, and a small, feeble pulse. The introduction of a long tube proved unavailing, and electric treatment was resorted to. An insulated sound, with a free metallic end, was introduced into the rectum, and a moistened conductor applied to the abdominal parietes, chiefly in the region of the sigmoid flexure. Through this circuit a primary faradic current was passed, and its force gradually increased until the patient experienced a decided feeling of vibration in the bowel. In the course of the day a copious intestinal evacuation ensued, with wonderful relief to all of the symptoms. During the next two days the bowels acted ten times, and in the course of a week the patient appeared to be quite well. A second case, in a woman fifty-seven years old, is cited in which a like result was obtained from similar treatment.

quantity of chlorate of potassium after the purchase of ten cents' worth of this article. In both of these cases symptoms were like those of the case reported by McShain, excepting that in these cases recovery took place, while in that of McShain death suddenly occurred on the sixth day after the poison had been ingested.—*Therapeutic Gazette*.

Diphtheric Vulvitis in a Child.—Gnietel (*Journal of Cutaneous and Genito-Urinary Diseases*) has reported the case of a girl, one year old, who for five days had been irritable and restless and appeared to suffer pain referred to the genital region, the symptoms being aggravated during micturition. Examination disclosed several patches of false membrane covering anteriorly the internal portion of both labia majora and nymphae and invading the urethral orifice. The membrane was firmly attached and grayish-white in color. It was further learned that two fatal cases of diphtheria had recently occurred in the house in which the child resided, the last but a week before she was taken ill. There were no other symptoms. Bacteriologic examination of the membrane revealed the presence of diphtheria-bacilli. The patches disappeared upon the use of local applications, chiefly of hydrogen dioxide and mercuric-chlorid, and the child made a good recovery. At no time were marked constitutional symptoms observed.

Poisoning by Chlorate of Potassium.—In the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, McShain reports the case of a girl of eleven years who, twenty-four hours previously, had, while employing a gargle of chlorate of potassium, swallowed a considerable quantity of the solution, which, with some tablets of chlorate of potassium which she had taken, represented about two hundred grains of the drug. The condition of the patient was that of marked cyanosis and temperature of 102 to 103 F.; scanty urine, which was exceedingly dark in color, and which, finally, was not secreted in larger quantities than half an ounce in twenty-four hours. Later on in the case the urine became somewhat more free, but contained large quantities of albumen, while jaundice and hepatic tenderness were developed. McShain quotes two cases,—one reported by Scherer, in which a grown man presented grave symptoms of poisoning after taking two cents' worth of chlorate of potassium; and another case of Dr. Hays, in which a young woman swallowed an unknown

SURGERY.

Death from Urethral Injection of Cocaine.—In this case the patient was aged 72, with heart disease, atheromatous arteries, and subject to angina pectoris. He had also an enlarged prostate, which caused retention. Attempts at catheterization failed, and puncture was resorted to. The next day, catheterization having again failed, suprapubic cystotomy was decided on; but a last attempt was made to pass the catheter under cocaine. Twenty grammes (!) of a 5 per cent. solution was injected into the urethra. Immediately the patient became pale, general trembling set in, he sat up in bed, commenced to vomit, and fell back dead. In a report on the case, Dr. Reclus says that, remembering the absorptive power of