SUBMEMBRANOUS LOCAL TREATMENT OF DIPTHHERIA.

At the last meeting of the American Medical Association, Dr. A. Seibert, of New York, reported thirty-five cases of pharyngeal diphtheria treated by submembranous injections, with a demonstration of the methods employed. He pointed out that the various antiseptics applied to the throat do not reach and destroy the bacilli underlying the false membrane. In order to effect this object, he injects by means of hypodermic needle-points an antiseptic into the inflamed mucous membrane under the affected part. He used a hypodermic syringe, to which can be attached a long tube terminating in a flat, hollow extremity, from which projects a number of short hypodermic needles. A variety of shapes enables these needle points to be pressed into any part of the affected pharyngeal mucous membrane After placing the syringe in position he presses the needles into the submucous tissue and then injects about 20 millimetres of chlorine water. This liquid he finds to be the most suitable, the safest, and the strongest antiseptic for this purpose. Of the cases reported he only lost two, and then from complications. The general treatment is at the same time carried out with careful attention to detail.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

A NEW METHOD OF PRODUCING LOCAL ANÆSTHESIA.

Dr. Wiesendenger describes in the *Jour. fur Zahnheilkunde* new method of producing anæsthesia by the application of cold, the characteristic feature of which is not the cold-producing agent which touches the desired part, but a metallic tube or chamber which is cooled by carbonic acid. The cold may, according to the requirements of the case, be regulated from the temperature of cold water to one sufficiently low to cauterize. The first symptom of this artificial cold is anæmia of the cellular tissue, producing a slight sensation of burning, which is followed by anæsthesia, which lasts from one to two minutes and than disappears without any ill effects. As the instrument may be manufactured of almost any shape, it is evident that this new method may be used for a variety of purposes. The simple turning of a tap will regulate the the stream of carbonic acid to any degree of temperature down to 4° F. No moisture is produced. In using this cold for the purpose of cauterizing, the surgeon has the advantage of producing anæsthesia at the same time. When applying it to any of the internal cavities, such as the mouth, it is necessary to have the parts carefully dried, as the tissues would otherwise adhere to the instrument. Dr. Kummel applied the method in the case of a boy in the Maria Hospital at Hamburg with such complete success that the boy looked on without moving a muscle while a deep incision of twelve centimetres in length was made in his thigh. Other gases which can be brougth into a fluid state may be used in place of carbonic acid. The carbonic acid which has been used for the purpose of anæsthesia may be led into a vessel which has been tested to a pressure of three atmospheres, and is provided with a manometer and safety-valve, whence it could be used as an agent for preserving food. An iron bottle of fluid carbonic acid at a pressure of fifty atmospheres is sufficient for fifty operations. This can be bought for four or five shillings. The instrument for the application of cold to the tissues costs thirty shillings.—*Lancet.*

A NEW MODE OF ADMINISTERING THE BROMIDES.

The *Pharmaceutical Record* remarks that in Paris the pharmacists have of late been astonished by the increasing number of prescriptons they have been called upon to dispose wherein the bromides are combined with naphthol and bismuth. This new departure is simply the practical carrying out of some suggestions made last year by Professor Fere of the Salpetriere, that large doses of the bromides tended, in certain individuls, to beget unpleasant symptoms chiefly for the reason that the gastro-intestinal tract of such persons was in a condition of sepsis that prevented the proper assimilation of the drugs. He recommended the administration of such intestinal antiseptics as naphthol and salicylate of bismuth as a means of removing drug intolerance from this and from other causes. The following formula is one method found by him to be advantageous, in the treatment of epileptics especially: ℞ Potassium bromide, 1½ drachm; beta-naphthol, 1 drachm; salicylate of sodium, ½ drachm. Mix and divide into three doses, one dose to be given three times daily. It is maintained by Féré that this treatment is curative as well as preventive. He has found that the eczema and psoriasis which sometimes follow in the train of borax will also disappear if the intestinal tract is rendered aseptic. To the formula above given some Paris physicians are in the habit of adding 1-20 of a grain of sulpate of strychnine.—*N. Y. Med. Journal.*

MODERN RENAL SURGERY.

Dr. A. Obalinski sums up his views regarding the treatment of severe inflammatory affections of the kidneys and their sequelæ in the following way: 1 Suppurative inflammation of the kidney and surrounding structures indicates the operation of nephrectomy in order that free exit may be given to the purulent and other inflammatory excretions, and that the focus of the disease may be thoroughly cleansed, and further