

NOTES ON THERAPEUTICS.

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RESORCIN.

Intermittent Fever.—Dr. Ugo Bassi reports twenty cases in which this new remedy was used. Of these seventeen were entirely cured; two of the remainder were old and obstinate quartan types, while the third patient was in very unfavourable hygienic surroundings. In the successful cases it required but two or three doses to effect the cure. The quantity given varied between thirty and forty grains. Larger amounts were not found to do any good. The peculiar advantage of resorcin, in Dr. Bassi's opinion, is its cheapness.

Resorcin was first obtained in 1864 by Hlasiwetz and Barth, from galbanum resin, by fusing it with potassa. It is closely allied chemically, and in its physiological action, with phenol, its formula being $C_6H_4O_2$, while that of phenol is C_6H_5O . It is claimed, however, to be much less poisonous and much more agreeable in taste and smell.

It is a powerful antipyretic. Dr. C. Fürst, of Vienna, states that resorcin was given in more than three hundred cases of puerperal fever, occurring in the service of Professor Braun. It was administered in doses of forty grains, dissolved in water, repeated when necessary. The result was, almost without exception, to bring down the temperature nearly to the normal. After a few hours there was a rise again, so that a dose given, for example, in the evening had to be repeated in the morning. The fall in temperature was usually accompanied with profuse perspiration.

In Erysipelas.—Dr. A. Skibnevsky, of Moscow, has used injections of resorcin in erysipelas with good results. From ten to twenty injections of the five per cent. solution were given, with the result of lessening very rapidly the fever and checking the progress of the disease.

Dr. Andeer, of Wurzburg, has experimented with resorcin, externally applied, and finds that it is not absorbed by the skin. He made a fifty per cent. vaseline ointment, and used it in the treatment of some cases of anthrax. The ointment was applied to the pustules and covered with a gauze bandage. The results were remarkably favourable, the pains disappeared, and the diseased parts speedily assumed a healthy action. The drug does not cause hæmaglobinuria like naphthol, and develops none of the poisonous symptoms caused by its congener, carbolic acid.*

THE TREATMENT OF HEART DISEASE.

Mitral Regurgitation.†—When we are satisfied that there is due compensation, medicinal treatment may be entirely unnecessary. Much injury has been done by the shaking of the head of the auscultator over the subject of a mitral murmur, who, perhaps, was no worse at the time of examination than he was ten, twenty, or thirty years before, and who might continue uninfluenced for harm by his cardiac complication all his days. He should be cautioned against strain, against exposure, and against irregularities of diet, etc. He may be better occasionally for treatment by iron tonics, cod-liver oil, or strychnine. Special cardiac treatment is out of place. When compensation is beginning to fail, then certain agents are useful. Of these digitalis is *facile princeps*. Practically the tincture is the most reliable preparation. Digitalin gives good results especially, Dr. Sansom says, when administered hypodermically. The usual dose, when given in this way, is 1/50 gr. Such treatment cannot be carried out in private practice. Here I have found very useful the pilules of Digitalin of McKesson & Robbin (gr. 1/60). They are easy to swallow, and afford a change in medication agreeable to the patient.

* Condensed from the *New York Medical Record*.† Lettsomian lectures on the treatment of some of the forms of valvular disease of the heart.—*Lancet*, Feb. 3rd, 1883.