

though there, in addition to the rinsing of the mouth, a local application in the form of the powder or pigment should be made to the individual follicular ulcers. The powder simply consists of finely powdered boric acid, mixed in various proportions with starch; the pigment is a solution of boric acid in glycerine (1 in 4 or 5). In both cases the addition of chlorate of potassium is advantageous; indeed, I usually combine it, but it is not essential.

Nothing I know of is at once so rapid and so efficient, in the treatment of *parasitic stomatitis* or *thrush*, as this remedy. The youngest children do not object to its application, and occasionally you have to caution against its too frequent use. The *oidium albicans* quickly succumbs to its influence, I am well aware of the great value of nitrate of silver in many of these conditions; but, I am also alive to its extremely disagreeable and persistent taste, and the dislike which precocious children at once take to it. For thrush in children, I especially recommend boric acid, either as a mouth-pigment or as a confection. Honey and sugar have both been condemned as being inadmissible, in combination, for the treatment of thrush; but so far as children are concerned, I must say I consider a confection (though made with honey), which has been impregnated with boric acid, gains more by its palatableness than it loses by the tendency of the saccharine matter to further the growth of the fungus. The boric acid at once does away with this tendency. Let the pigment be frequently painted with a brush over the patches, never omitting to do it after food has been taken; or, a little of the confection simply allowed to dissolve in the mouth; and the days of the fungus will soon be ended. I have found boric acid combined with its salt (borax) markedly beneficial. Borax alone, however, is not nearly so good.

In *pharyngitis* and *relaxed conditions of the throat* a gargle, containing boric acid and glycerine with either tannic acid or alum in addition, ought not to be forgotten.

Let me allude to another condition, in which I have found combinations of this substance helpful and grateful to the patient. I refer to the condition in which we frequently find the mouth, tongue and teeth in severe cases of typhoid fever. The mouth is hot; the lips dry, cracked, and glued to the sordes-covered teeth by inspissated mucus and saliva; the tongue dry, or even glazed and hard, brown or black, crusted with a foetid fur. Under such circumstances, a pigment containing boric acid (30 grains), chlorate of potassium (20 grains), lemon juice (5 fluid drachms), and glycerine (3 fluid drachms), yields very comforting results. When the teeth are well rubbed with this, the sordes quickly and easily become detached, little harm will follow from the acid present. The boric acid attacks the masses of bacilli and bacteria; the chlorate of potassium cools and soothes the mucous membrane; the glycerine and lemon

juice moisten the parts, and aid the salivary secretion. I consider the application well worth a trial.

So much for the soft parts; a word in conclusion regarding the teeth. Few medical men, I suppose have ever given a prescription for a tooth-powder (such a matter is beneath their notice); and the selection of the ingredients for the various powders and pastes in vogue for the purpose of beautifying and cleansing the teeth is left entirely in the hands of those who certainly should not know better than medical men. I have frequently trespassed on this debatable ground, and recommend a particular dentifrice. In view of the extremely important part the teeth play in the economy of life, I never hesitate occasionally to inquire as to the attention they receive.

A tooth-powder should possess certain characteristics; it should be antiseptic, cooling, agreeable to taste and smell, and have no injurious action on the teeth. After use, it should leave the teeth white, and a sensation of freshness and cleanliness in the mouth. As an antiseptic in this connection nothing can displace boric acid. For years I have used the following powder, and can recommend it: Boric acid, finely powdered, 40 grs.; chlorate of potassium, 3 ss; powdered guaiacum, 20 grs.; prepared chalk, 3 i; powdered carbonate of magnesia, 3 i; attar of roses, half a drop. The boric acid in solution gets between the teeth and the edges of the gums, and there it discharges its antiseptic functions; the chlorate and guaiacum contribute their quota to the benefit of the gums and mucous membrane generally; the chalk is the insoluble powder to detach the particles of tartar which may be present, and the magnesia the more soluble soft powder which can not harm the softest enamel.

It is only right to say that boroglyceride (Barff) can replace boric acid in almost all the forms of administration I have enumerated; it is efficacious slightly, and pleasant to the taste.—*British Medical Journal*.

SOME APHORISMS IN OPHTHALMOLOGY.

By M. F. COOMES, M.D.

1. As a local anesthetic to mucous surfaces and open wounds, the muriate of cocaine is one of the most certain and effective agents that is known.
2. All surgical operations on the eye, except enucleation of the globe, may be performed under the influence of cocaine with as much or more safety than under any other anesthetics.
3. In all forms of iritis keep the pupil dilated.
4. In acute retinitis, unaccompanied by iritis, keep the pupil contracted, in order to keep out as much light as possible.
5. The only relief for senile cataract is surgical interference.
6. The rule is that all acute purulent discharges from the conjunctiva are contagious.