

change between the morbid blood and those tissues, upon whose irritation depends the fatal manifestation of the disease.”

Aconite fulfils the 2nd indication by relieving the system from the incubus of febrile excitement, favouring the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, in inducing profuse diaphoresis by which the poison is eliminated, and giving time for the successful operation of more potent germicides.

The 3rd indication is involved in the first two. It preserves the strength by conserving it, and in the small doses above indicated is never followed by depression even though continued for over 24 hours, as in case 1. Of all I have advanced this is the sum, and I am done.

1. Aconite in minute doses, frequently repeated, depresses the sympathetic, and like cold, contracts the vaso-motor fibres.

2. It has a selective action on inflamed parts, because of their increased susceptibility.

3. This sedative effect by lessening febrile reaction is conservative of strength, while its vaso-motor action is anti-inflammatory.

4. In consequence of this twofold action, Aconite in at least the first stage of diphtheria calms the circulation, lowers the temperature, lessens tissue change, overcomes inflammation, checks the spread of membrane and helps the relieved system to throw off the poison through the skin and kidneys.

IODOFORM.*

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Although it is sixty years since iodoform was discovered, its general employment as an antiseptic agent dates back only three years. At the present time it is—carbolic acid not excepted—probably the most extensively used agent of any of the whole group of antiseptics. It is a teriodide of formyl (CHI), and is prepared by adding chlorinated lime to an alcoholic solution of iodine until the liquid ceases to present a red color.

Properties.—It is in yellow, pearly crystals. It has a sweet taste, and a persistent disagreeable odor resembling that of

* Lecture delivered before the Materia Medica Class.