

CARBOLIC ACID IN INDIGESTION.—In some cases of indigestion accompanied by acidity, flatulence and cramps, small doses of pure carbolic acid give marked relief. This remedy is also useful in the dyspepsias of tea-drinkers. Dr. E. Berdoe uses the following formula:—

R Pure crystallized carbolic acid, 1 part.
Glycerine. 4 “

Dose, 5 to 10 drops in half a glass of peppermint water. If there be much pain in the stomach, 5 to 10 drops of laudanum, or an equivalent dose of any other preparation of opium, may be added. Tincture of nux vomica is indicated when it is desirable to increase peristaltic action.

MODIFYING EFFECT OF THE EXCIPIENT OF CARBOLIC ACID.—Ointments of carbolic acid, and carbolic oil 10 per cent., are far less irritating than aqueous or alcoholic solutions of 1 in 5, or even 1 in 100. A glycerine solution of carbolic acid, 1 in 50, has no irritant effect on the skin. It is not so, however, with a salve made with vaseline which causes redness of the skin in the strength of one in 20. The anti-septic properties of carbolic acid seem in no wise weakened by mixing with fats. How can this modification of irritant action be explained? It is evidently not a question of solubility, since alcohol dissolves an almost equal quantity.—*Lyon Médical*.

CHLORAL HYDRATE IN VOMITING OF PREGNANCY.—Dr. Fred. Léon relates a case of intractable vomiting of pregnancy, at the fourth month, which had resisted all therapeutic measures. The patient was so weakened that her life was despaired of. Injections of hydrate of chloral, 2.50 grammes in mucilage of tragacanth, into the rectum resulted in calm sleep from which she awoke without vomiting and could retain food.—*Gaceta Méd. Catalana*.

R. B. N.

Prof. Da Costa directed, in a case of impacted colon of one week's duration, that an injection should be used, of turpentine $\bar{3}$ ss, beat up with the white of an egg and mixed with a pint of hot water, to be followed by simple hot water and salt. In case this treatment failed, warm

sweet oil was to be used. Internally was given—

R. Magnesii sulph. $\bar{3}$ j
Acid sulphurici dil. gtt.ij
Elixir simplic.
Aquæ $\bar{a}\bar{a}$ $\bar{f}\bar{3}$ ss. \bar{m} .
Sig.—To be given every half hour.

At the next clinic the patient returned well, the cure having been accomplished by the injections of sweet oil and a pill of aloes, belladonna and colocynth, on the third day of the treatment.

TSUCHIAKABI.—This drug is the fruit capsule of an orchid indigenous in Japan, and used there for a long time past. The capsules possess an acid and bitter taste, and contain a substance which is largely soluble in water. By treatment with spirit, an extract can be obtained which has a sharp but not unpleasant taste. It is composed of a resin, acid, and glucoside, to which are probably to be attributed its medical properties. The urinary bladder and passages are the parts of the body on which the medicament exerts its special action. The Japanese employ a watery extract of this drug, which would be administered in those cases for which cubebs and copaiba are prescribed, with the advantage of the absence of the disagreeable odour of the last-named drug.—*Lancet*.

WATER PURIFIED BY ALUM.—A small quantity of alum added to water removes all impurities. The simplest way is to take an ordinary drain pipe and plug one end with cotton 2 or 3 inches thick. This may be kept in place by a ring of wood. Make a solution of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of alum in a cup of boiling water, pour this into a quart measure and fill with cold water. Fifty-four drops of this contains $2\frac{3}{4}$ th grains of alum, the quantity required for a gallon of water. It is not important to be exact, twice the quantity being harmless. Next, by filtering, even organic matter is removed.

In the *Prager Medicinische Wochenschrift*, Dr. Lurtz reports four cases of lupus successfully treated by the application of lactic acid. It produces but little pain. The healthy tissue is protected by smearing it with ointment.