

the greatest one which results from the outrageous price of the goods we are speaking of. A greater, is the lack of proper treatment which the poorer classes suffer, owing to the scarcity of proper instruments. How many medical men, in the country especially, can recall cases in which health and comfort have been lost, and even life sacrificed, owing to want of perfect instruments and appliances. We believe that the aggregate of suffering and loss of life, and consequently loss of wealth to the country would be appalling in its magnitude if such aggregate could be set forth. Now the removal of this tax will not give every practitioner a good outfit, but it will enable men with slender means to purchase goods for about three-fourths the price they now pay, and we might reasonably expect to see a corresponding improvement in the working tools of the profession, which could not fail to be a direct benefit to the public at large. We intend to call attention to this matter in a future issue, and in the meantime shall be glad to have the opinion of members of the profession, whether for publication or otherwise.

RECORCINE IN WHOOPING COUGH.

This remedy has been extensively employed during the last few years in the treatment of whooping-cough, with very good success. Dr. Moncorvo, of Rio de Janeiro, was among the first to bring the treatment into general notice. He strongly advocated the topical employment of resorcine in the strength of a one per cent. solution, applied by a fine pencil-brush to the larynx. He gives the following as his general conclusions on the subject:

1. That whooping-cough—whose nature, up to a very recent period, has been subjected to the most diverse interpretations, in relation to its genesis—may, to-day, according to the latest microscopic researches, be included in the class of parasitic diseases. 2. That the disease appears attributable to the presence of micrococci which multiply prodigiously in the hyperglottic vicinity of the larynx, infiltrating its epithelial cells, which appear to be the predilective seat of their development. 3. That resorcine, applied to the laryngeal mucous membrane, caused, in all the cases in which it was employed, rapid decrease of the number of the paroxysms, moderation of their in-

tensity, and finally recovery in a short period of time, without the aid of any other medication whatever.

Dr. Moncorvo says that resorcine, owing to its much less caustic action and the absence of disagreeable taste and odor, is far preferable to carbolic acid. He has administered it internally to children, even the newly born, suffering under diarrhoea and dysentery. He advises that strict attention be given to the quality; and he recommends that prepared by Monnet, of Geneva, which is of notable whiteness, and in the form of silvery bright crystalline needles. It is extremely soluble in water. Dr. M. recommends the topical application with a fine pencil-brush, to be repeated every two hours. The first applications, he says, sometimes exacerbate the coughing fits, but this irritation ceases in two or three days. In twenty cases treated by him, he was not disappointed in his expectation in a single instance; and some of them had been very obstinate, or even dangerously complicated, as with hereditary syphilis, threatened hydrocephalus, pulmonary tuberculosis, intermittent fever, etc. This drug being a congener of carbolic acid, no doubt acts in a similar manner as a parasiticide. Dr. Moncorvo states that he has, by numerous microscopic examinations of the sputa expectorated by his patients suffering from whooping-cough, verified the statements made by Letzerich, Henke, Steiner, Hagenbach, and other writers, as to the parasitic character or complication of the disease. The treatment advocated by him is, therefore, free from all insinuation of empiricism, and, as the article is not expensive, it will no doubt soon be largely-sought after if experience prove the correctness of the drug to claims for it.

DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING A COUNTRY PRACTICE.

The difficulties which beset the practitioner in the country are very well shown in the following correspondence to the *N. C. Med. Jour.*, who compares laparotomy in New York City and in North Carolina:

"These men, teaching in the great hospitals here, are great men and great teachers, and far be it from me to take one jot or tittle from their merited honor, but oh, how great are their opportunities! If a big operation is to be done in New