

increase the dose, which is perfectly well tolerated, the only effect being to cause one or two stools, two hours after the meal. When the dose was increased no more than eight grammes were given. Sometimes at first a little nausea was produced, but this speedily disappeared. Vidal gives a little wine after the potion, which makes it better tolerated. No change in diet is necessary. Besides the potion, a liniment of equal parts of the balsam and limewater, applied by means of tampons, was used in women with vaginitis; the tampons were left in the vagina twenty-four hours. A cure was always rapid in women. Its advantages over copaiba are its more rapid and certain action; it does not produce erythema, and it does not give to the breath the tell-tale odor of copaiba. Its local action in vaginitis and balanitis is also excellent.

LEAD POISONING.—An interesting case of lead poisoning through criminal negligence is reported from Mosback. The patient began to suffer some years before 1876, and consulted several physicians in vain until Dr. Witmer made a correct diagnosis, and after a treatment of over three-quarters of a year entirely cured him. The poisoning was caused by imperfectly-tinned lead snuff boxes, in which a particular brand of snuff was packed, which the patient was in the habit of buying from one and the same manufacturer, and which became contaminated with lead. A suit against the tobacco dealer was filed, who was convicted and sentenced to incarceration for eight days and payment of costs.—*American Journ. Pharmacy.*

THE ACTION OF TOAD POISON ON THE HUMAN BODY.—A child of six years old followed a large toad on a hot summer's day, throwing stones at it. Suddenly he felt that the animal had spurted some moisture into his eye. There suddenly set in a slight pain and spasmodic twitching of the slightly-injected eye, but two hours after coma, jumping sight, desire to bite, a dread of food and drink, constipation, abundant urine, great agitation manifested themselves, followed on the sixth day by sickness, apathy, and a kind of stupor, but with a regular pulse. Some days later, having become comparatively quiet, the boy left his bed; his eyes are injected, the skin dry, the pulse free from fever. He howls and behaves himself like a madman, sinks into imbecility and speechlessness, from which condition he never rallies.—*Chemist and Druggist.*

OINTMENT IN GONORRHEAL ORCHITIS.—Dr. Alvarez recommends the following pomade: Finely powdered iodoform, one to two parts; lard, thirty parts. In the course of an hour or two, he says, the pain is relieved. It has also the advantage over the mercurial ointment of not affecting the gums. By its well-known resolvent action the iodoform diminishes the duration of the orchitis, and prevents subsequent induration of the affected organ. It must be used more or less strong, according to the degree of inflammation of the epididymis existing.—*Union Med.*

QUACK MEDICINES.—At a recent convention of pharmacists in England was urged the importance of fixing some legal limits to the wholesale poisoning of the public by patent medicines. It was proposed that even if it be impossible altogether to suppress the reaction of dishonest quackery upon vulgar superstition, the venders of nostrums be compelled to divulge the composition of their wares, and prevented from publishing mischievous and mendacious advertisements concerning them. Among the examples cited, including sundry "hair restorers," which, in direct contradiction to their advertised pretensions, contain poisonous quantities of lead, the most glaring one is a largely certificated "Sure Cure for the Opium Habit," which is found on analysis to give two grains of morphine to the dose, recommended to be taken thrice a day. It is scarcely to be expected that American apothecaries, most of whom derive the larger part of their income from the sale of these secret nostrums, will join in the crusade preached by their British cousins; but it would be well if the American public were taught that ninety-nine hundredths of the proprietary medicines which flood the market are the products of uneducated impostors, either wholly inert or positively deleterious.

HOW TO BLEACH SPONGES.—The following minute directions are given for bleaching sponges to any shade from a delicate straw color to a snowy white. It is said that the texture of the sponge is not impaired by its use, unless it is allowed to remain in the solution too long a time:—

Having made the sponges free from sand and calcareous matter by gently beating them, wash them in water, squeeze as dry as possible, and then place a few at a time in a solution of *permanganate of potassa*, made by dissolving 180 grains of the salt in five pints of water, and pouring a portion of the solution into a suitable glazed vessel. Let them remain a few moments until they have acquired a dark mahogany-brown color, when they are to be squeezed by hand to free them from the solution. They are then dropped, a few at a time, into a bleaching solution made as follows.

Hyposulphite of soda, 10 ounces; water, 68 ounces. When dissolved add muriatic acid, 5 ounces.

This solution should be made a day or more before being wanted for use, in order that the sulphur, which is precipitated by the addition of the acid, may be easily separated. This solution is poured off from the sulphur, and, if necessary, strained through a piece of muslin into a glazed vessel. [This portion of the process should be done in the open air or under a hood, where the offensive vapors of sulphurous acid are removed.] The sponges are allowed to remain in this solution for a few moments, occasionally squeezing them with the hand in order to allow the fluid to thoroughly permeate them, then squeezed out and washed in several waters to rid them of the sulphurous odors. After several washings they may, if necessary, be completely decolorized by a *very weak* solution of bicar-