

#### THE GASTRIC JUICE IN ACUTE FEBRILE DISEASES.

—Regarding the importance of feeding in acute infectious diseases, Dr. Gluzinski, of Cracow, has come to the following conclusions, *Deutscher Archiv of Klin. Med.*, as to the value of the gastric juice in such cases:—1. During the whole course of the fever (except in the final stage of typhoid fever) the gastric juice contains no hydrochloric acid. 2. The gastric juice digests neither in the organism—since it contains no pepsin—nor outside the organism. 3. This gastric juice digests very well, artificially, after the addition of the proper quantity of hydrochloric acid, which shows that it contains pepsin, and that the impossibility of digestion is due solely to the absence of hydrochloric acid. 4. With the disappearance of the fever, or somewhat later, the gastric juice becomes capable of digestion both within and outside the organism. In regard to the chronic febrile diseases, normal, digesting gastric juice exists during the fever.

Other things being equal, the nature of the gastric juice in febrile diseases is influenced more by the nature of the infection than by the high temperature. The possibility of a secretion of active gastric juice in chronic febrile diseases increases the hope of good results from forced feeding.

**EARLY EXCISION IN TUBERCULAR DISEASE OF THE HIP-JOINT.**—The London correspondent of the *Med. Rec.* says that Mr. Barker read a paper at the Medical and Chirurgical Society, in which "he urged that at a certain stage of the disease, the complete removal of the tubercular tissue ought to be possible. When treatment by rest had failed he would perform excision. He maintained that in many cases the wound ought to heal by first intention throughout, and often without drainage. He then related a case which he had successfully treated. The patient was a boy, five years of age, who had been under careful treatment for a year. The head of the femur was destroyed and an abscess of the usual kind had formed. Excision was performed, and primary union took place, without drainage, under one dressing. The patient left hospital on the fourteenth day, wearing a double Thomas' splint."

**TREATMENT OF TYPHLITIS.**—The following plan of treatment is recommended by Bouchard, *France Med.*—1. Alleviate the pain, either by injections of morphine or the application of belladonna oint-

ment under a hot poultice. 2. Wash out the large intestine by copious hot enemata, consisting of at least a quart of hot water in which ʒjss of borate of sodium is dissolved, or to which two or three teaspoonfuls of a mixture of equal parts of tincture of benzoin and spirit of camphor is added. 3. The patient must be kept absolutely quiet. 4. Only the mildest kind of purgatives, if any at all, should be used. 5. Food should consist of milk diluted with alkaline waters, with the yolk of an egg at a later period.

**THE USES OF GELSEMIUM SEMPERVIRENS.**—Dr. Garland concludes an article in the *Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, in which he speaks highly of the drug, as follows:—The dose of gelsemium depends upon the preparation used and the effect which one desires to obtain. For the relief of neuralgia one should give 3 to 5 drops every half-hour or hour, according to the intensity of the pain. To produce sweating, 1 drop every half-hour is sufficient, provided the patient be well wrapped up in bed; 1 drop of the fluid extract will relieve the cough and discomfort of acute bronchitis; the tincture of gelsemium sempervirens is slightly weaker than the fluid extract.

The advantages which gelsemium sempervirens can legitimately claim, are:—1. It has an agreeable taste, and is not repulsive to adult or child. 2. It does not irritate the stomach or bowels. 3. It produces no depressing after-effects from ordinary doses, the sleep is natural, and the patient awakens refreshed. 4. In ordinary doses it causes no depression of the heart, and it can be used in all forms of organic diseases of the heart. 5. It does not create a habit. There is no depression of nerve-centres following its use, and therefore no craving for more of it. 6. Its toxic symptoms are very characteristic and striking, and they appear early, so that plenty of warning is given. Morphine is the best antidote, combined with digitalis and artificial respiration.

**MASTITIS.**—In the Columbia Hospital for Women (*Obs. Gaz.*), a liniment composed of half an ounce of camphor, dissolved in three ounces of turpentine, has been found most effective in checking the secretion of milk in mastitis; it alleviates pain, lessens induration, and is more effective in reducing inflammation than any other remedy that has been tried.