

TREATMENT OF A "BAD COLD."—Dr. John Auld, of Philadelphia, speaks as follows (*Med. Record*) about the treatment of a "bad cold": "For the benefit of those members of the profession who are on the outlook for improvements upon the methods of bygone days, I venture to offer a single remedy for the treatment of a 'bad cold' that is far superior to all others. Gelsemium is not only useful in those cases which would recover without medication, but is also efficient when formidable symptoms are present, and, judiciously employed, may be the means of averting an attack of pneumonia, pleuropneumonia, pleurisy, or other serious disease beginning in the form of a bad cold. Gelsemium arrests profuse nasal secretions, quiets headache and neuralgia, subdues cough and pain, favors a re-establishment of the secretions, through its influence upon the skin, kidneys, and gastro-intestinal tract. It reduces temperature and pulse rate, promotes sleep, and creates a feeling of comfort and well-being without in any way approaching narcosis or destroying the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood-corpuscles. By the use of this single remedy, much discomfort to the patient is avoided, digestion remains undisturbed, nauseating draughts are banished, the necessity for purgatives precluded, and all dangers of subsequent relapse practically eliminated; while recovery is prompt, perfect, and satisfactory in every particular. Ten drops of a reliable fluid extract (assayed) are dissolved in three ounces of water, and of this mixture the patient takes a teaspoonful every ten or fifteen minutes for an hour, then at less frequent intervals, according to the effects produced. The plan is simple, the medicine harmless in the dosage recommended, and not at all unpalatable, and the claims for it can be verified almost any day of the week, at this season of the year, by submitting the remedy to the crucial test of clinical experience."

THE TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER BY PERCHLORIDE OF IRON.—I have intended making a communication on this subject to the *British Medical Journal* for some time, but the present moment seems favorable to a brief statement of a mode of treating typhoid fever which I have already more fully described in a thesis to Edinburgh University, and which has

had very remarkable results in my hands, no case of typhoid having died for several years where the treatment has been begun before essentially fatal conditions had arisen, such as perforation.

The treatment consists in administering a full dose of the liq. ferri perchloridi fort., namely, 5 minims (for an adult) every hour of the day and night, until a week has elapsed from the complete subsidence of the fever. To enable the patient to take this, the dose is combined with half a drachm of glycerine or one drachm of simple syrup, and a few drops of tinct. zingib. fort., and diluted in a tumblerful of water. If sickness is caused, 5 grains of bismuthi subnit. are given ten minutes before each dose of the medicine until nausea ceases to be produced. In a few days the diarrhoea will be arrested, and thereafter a mild aperient must be given daily as long as the medicine is continued.

In a moderately severe case not brought under this treatment until the end of the first week of fever, it will take ten days to reduce the temperature to normal. If the medicine is not given every hour night and day, it will take a little longer; if begun within two or three days of onset of fever, the latter will be gone in about five days. The patient sleeps in the intervals between the doses at night, and of all the serious symptoms of typhoid most never appear, and any present at first disappear rapidly.—J. W. Anderson, M.A., M.D., Edin., in *British Medical Journal*.

NUTRITIVE ENEMATA.—M. Ewald, in his researches on nutritive enemata, arrived at the unexpected conclusion that, even when not peptonized, eggs are partly absorbed by the mucous membrane of the rectum.

A Swiss *confrère*, Dr. Huber, having lately taken up these researches of Ewald in the medical clinic of Professor Eichhorst, at Zurich, found that the absorption of eggs by the rectal mucous membrane was considerably increased, to the extent of becoming almost equal to that of peptonized eggs, by adding to the enema one gramme of chloride of sodium for each egg. The addition of common salt in the quantity mentioned is well borne, and ordinarily produces no irritation of the intestine.

It appears established, then, that for the