

Cocaine as a Means of Differential Diagnosis.

In a communication to the *Wiener med. Wochenschrift*, Baumgarten expresses the opinion that if an infiltration in the larynx subsides for some time after being painted with cocaine, the diagnosis can be made of a catarrhal trouble. But if the cocaine produces no diminution in the swelling, nor paleness, then the disease is to be regarded as serious; and if no diminution in swelling, nor pallor occur after some days, catarrhal troubles may be excluded.

Formulae for the Use of Drugs by Atomization in Phthisis.

Dr. O'Brien, in the *Therapeutic Gazette* of February 15, 1888, reports his method of treatment as follows:—

The apparatus which is most satisfactory to me is the vaporizer of Codman & Shurtleff, of Boston. This firm supplies an atomizing apparatus placed in a flask, and the atomizing force is supplied from a gasometer capable of retaining air at the pressure of twenty-five pounds. The compressed air can be supplied by other forms of apparatus, as the Burgess apparatus; the essential principle being to use a dry vapor, which must be inhaled under a certain pressure, say from fifteen to twenty-five pounds. I have found great satisfaction in using one of three formulae:—

- a. **R.**—Carbolic acid gr. xxj.
Compd. tinct. iodine m xvj.
Glycerin ʒss.
Water ʒij.—M.
- b. **R.**—Terebene ʒss.
Fluid cosmoline ʒj.—M.
- c. **R.**—Paregoric ʒiij.
Ethyl iodidi ʒss.
Chloroform ʒj
Fluid cosmoline ʒss.—

The first of these solutions seems to be most beneficial in the form of bronchial and lobular desquamative catarrh, combined with softening and apex cavity. Frequently in such cases the temperature can be promptly reduced within an hour after inhalation. When the treatment has been followed steadily, the effect is to modify the processes of bronchial catarrh, suppuration, and softening, and to lessen cough and expectoration, to diminish night-sweats, and most decidedly to influence the temperature. The creasote vapor

sometimes produces a sensation of dryness, or irritation of the bronchial mucous membrane, which may necessitate its temporary suspension.

When the cough is very dry and troublesome the vapor of the iodide of ethyl is soothing, or I have found that the following formula, used on the Yeo inhaler, is very efficient:—

- R.**—Ethyl, iodidi ʒiv.
Chloroform ʒj.
Tr. opii camph. ʒiij.—M.

Sig.—Ten to twenty drops every half-hour for one or two hours several times daily.

I have used the foregoing formula sufficiently often to enable me to speak with precision as to its value, but I have also used the same apparatus in a number of cases with other combinations, such as fir wood oil, one part, and fluid cosmoline, two parts, or the following:—

- R.**—Tr. iodinii comp. m vij.
Tr. coni m xv.
Glycerinæ ʒiv.
Aq. ʒiv.

Used in vaporizer

- R.**—Acid. carbolic. ʒj-ʒvij.
Sodæ biborat. ʒij.
Glycerinæ ʒss.
Ad. dest. ad ʒiv.—

Filter and use in vaporizer.

Saccharin in Diabetes.

Purdy, of Chicago, concludes as follows from his clinical observations upon saccharin, in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, of February 25, 1888:—

First. That in this product we possess a flavoring agent for food and drink the palatability of which is quite equal to that of finer grades of sugar, and which may be used by diabetic patients with the greatest impunity.

Second. That through its antiseptic properties it retards the abnormal fermentative changes in the stomach so common in diabetic patients—thus promoting digestion and relieving flatulence.

Third. That while as yet we are without sufficient practical data to judge of its blood effects in large doses to diabetic patients, yet both chemistry and physiology would indicate its use for the purpose of favorably influencing some of the more fatal complications of the disease.