

there is a sense of incompleteness in the therapeutic portion of the work rather disappointing to those who have derived such pleasure and profit from the articles which have appeared from time to time from the pen of Dr. Steavenson. Some of the apparatus depicted would be considered rather antiquated in this country, but most of the illustrations are admirable. While the work may represent the present status of medical electricity in England, it must be borne in mind that the results achieved on this side of the water are considerably in advance. In spite of all these shortcomings, this handsome and capably arranged volume is a decided acquisition to the literature of the subject—the theoretical, physiological, and diagnostic portions being especially valuable—and a careful perusal cannot fail to prove instructive.

*The Principles of Theoretical Chemistry.* By Ira Remsem, Professor of Chemistry in the Johns Hopkins University. Fourth edition. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1892.

This edition is, in its essential points, the same as those previously issued—a brief treatise on the facts and speculations which have to deal especially with the problem of the constitution of chemical compounds. Some changes and additions, called for by the recent developments of the science, have been made, the most important of which is a chapter on solutions, in which recent methods for the determination of atomic weights are discussed. The student will find the subject discussed clearly, and in a most concise manner, in this book.

### Therapeutic Notes.

**HOW TO POULTICE THE EAR.**—Poulticing an ear may seem to be a simple operation, but there is, nevertheless, a right and a wrong way of doing it, and it appears that the wrong way is the one usually adopted. At least, so says Dr. Alfred H. Buck, of New York, in an article on aural therapeutics in the March number of the new *International Medical Magazine*. Dr. Buck says that while heat is one of the best remedies in painful inflammations of the middle ear, and the poultice is one of the best methods of applying heat, as usually put on the poultice

has little effect. What should be done, he says, is first to fill the external auditory canal with lukewarm water, the head resting on the unaffected side upon the pillow. Then a large flaxseed poultice is applied over the ear, as hot as it can be borne. The column of water is thus kept warm, and acts as a conductor of heat between the poultice and the inflamed surface.—*Med. & Surg. Reporter.*

**RHUS RADICANS IN THE TREATMENT OF NOCTURNAL INCONTINENCE OF URINE IN CHILDREN.**—The *Gazette Médicale de Paris* gives the following formula for a tincture of *Rhus radicans*, to be used in the treatment of nocturnal incontinence of urine in children: *Rhus radicans* (dry leaves), one part; alcohol (21°, Corlieu), five parts. Macerate for fifteen days. To children under six years of age, five drops of this tincture may be given night and morning. For children over six, as many as forty drops may be administered. An effect is soon produced. If at the end of three weeks there is no perceptible change, it is useless to continue using the tincture. When a cure is brought about, it is best to continue the administration of the drug from time to time.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*

**THE TREATMENT OF NOCTURNAL INCONTINENCE OF URINE IN CHILDREN.**—Dr. Van Tienhoven. (*Allg. Wiener Med. Zeitung*.) This author believes the exciting cause of nocturnal enuresis to be the incomplete closure of the prostatic urethra during the general muscular relaxation of sleep. The urine collecting in the bladder soon finds its way into the urethral pouch, and gives rise, by its presence, to reflex detrusor spasm.

To overcome this he advises elevation of the pelvis during sleep by means of a wooden frame, which raises the body to an angle of 45 degrees.

In this manner, he affirms, the urine is prevented from entering the posterior segment of the urethra.—*Journal of Cutaneous and Genito-Urinary Diseases.*

**HABITUAL ABORTION.**—Dr. Turrazo has obtained excellent results in the treatment of frequent and habitual abortion by means of *assafoetida*. As soon as pregnancy is diagnosed, he prescribes pills of *assafoetida* containing on