

little pain or straining, either to nurse or patient. If the device prove too slippery when not wanted, a few strong pins fastening it to the bedding beneath, will prove sufficient to prevent it.

**TOILET PREPARATIONS.**—The following, taken from a report submitted to the Hygienic Council of Paris, by Drs. Dubrisay and Chatin, may be interesting as showing the deleterious influence of various articles of the toilet, such as hair dyes, cosmetiques, etc. Though they are usually advertised as "vegetable, and perfectly harmless," an analysis shows they are all more or less noxious. We copy a part of the report from the *Med. and Surg. Reporter*:

"Progressive dyes" are ammoniacal solutions of nitrate of silver. The "instantaneous dyes" are a solution of litharge in lime water. "Eau des Fées" is a solution of sulphate of lead in hyposulphite of soda. "Eau Figaro" consists of three solutions: (1) of nitrate of silver and sulphate of copper; (2) sulphide of sodium; (3) cyanide of potassium (to remove the silver stains). "Eau des Fleurs" is composed of rose-water, 95.5; flowers of sulphur, 2.7; acetate of lead, 2.8. Passing to cosmetiques, they say "Lait antiplelique" is composed of corrosive sublimate, 1.7; oxide of lead, 4.22; sulphuric acid and camphor. "Lait de Manille" is a mixture of borax, copper, tincture of benzoin, and essence of bitter almonds; "Lait de Ninon," of bismuth and zinc; "Eau Magique," oxide of lead and hyposulphate of zinc; "Eau de Fleur-de-lys," protochloride of mercury; "Eau royal de Windsor," glycerine and oxide of lead; "Eau de Castille," hyposulphite of soda and acetate of lead. The "Poudre Pilivore de Laforet" contains mercury (?) 60 grs.; sulphide of arsenic, 30 grs.; litharge, 30 grs., and starch, 30 grs. "Epiteine" is simply sulphite of calcium, and "Antibolbos" hypophosphite of soda. Pomades against baldness all contain cantharides and croton oil.

**NO SUCH DISEASE AS PRURIGO.**—Dr. Tom Robinson gives (*Jour. Cutaneous and Venereal Diseases*) his ideas on this so-called disease, as follows:

1. There is not such a disease as *prurigo*. 2. That all cases of itching skins have a recognized and discoverable cause. 3. That all the group of symptoms, which are known as *prurigo*, are the

result of scratching, and are simply symptoms. 4. All scratched skins which have advanced to an elephantoid state, and which have set up enlargement of lymphatic glands, are beyond the reach of remedies or hope. 5. That the pruriginous skin of children has its origin in developing hair follicles, which progresses from birth to puberty, when it stops. 6. That excessive itching does not occur in those situations where the hair grows luxuriantly. 7. That what is known as winter prurigo is due to imprisoned hairs. 8. That an irritable state of the chin is always associated with an irritable state of the mucous and synovial membranes.

**USE OF CASCARA SAGRADA.**—Dr. Russell, writing to the *Coll. & Clin. Record*, gives the result of the action of the above drug in fifty cases, which were under his observation for a considerable time. The fluid extract was always used, with an initial dose of ℥ xx, t. d. He found it useful in forty-three cases out of the fifty, in all of which favorable cases the dose was gradually diminished, while in no case was it found necessary to increase the effective dose to produce an evacuation of the bowels. The writer notices that it is much more useful in chronic than in acute cases, and especially in older patients.

**NEW TEST FOR MORPHINE.**—We take the following from the *Med. Press and Circular*.—Add a few drops of concentrated sulphuric acid to a solution containing as little as 1-200th grain of morphine, together with a few drops of a solution of sulphate of sodium, heat in a porcelain capsule, and as soon as a white vapour of sulphuric acid forms, cool rapidly, when the mixture will become of a blue color, resembling syrup of violets. If the heating process be continued the liquid turns brown, and when allowed to cool, it turns of a bright red color on the addition of a few drops of water. A little more water turns the color to a pale green. If now an equal volume of chloroform be added and shaken, the chloroform becomes of a fine blue color.

**OSMIC ACID IN SCIATICA.**—Considerable success (*London Med. Rev.*) has followed the injection of osmic acid in the course of the affected nerve, not a few absolute cures having been reported as well