

## INTERESTING MEDICAL FACTS CONCERNING CHAMPAGNE.

The great value of pure champagne in medical practice has long been attested by the best authorities, and at this late date needs scarcely to be alluded to. For instance, in his work on "Food and Dietetics," Dr. Pavv, a very high authority on the subjects of which it treats, says: "Champagne is characterized in its effects upon the system by the rapidity of its action as a stimulant and restorative, and is a useful wine for exciting the flagging powers in cases of exhaustion." It also has a tendency to allay irritability of the stomach, and in some cases of vomiting may be found to be retained when other stimulants are rejected."

The no less esteemed Dr. Thomas King Chambers, in his well-known lectures on "The Renewal of Life," expresses the opinion that thoroughly good champagne exhilarates more, is easier digested, and does the good without the harm better than any of its rivals.

Professor Austin Flint, in his standard treatise on "The Physiology of Man," states that it is often the best diffusible stimulant that can be employed in certain diseases which demand prompt and vigorous support of the vital powers.

But, although champagne has been so long and highly esteemed, sufficient attention has not been paid to the composition of the wine. In order that it may be of most efficient service, champagne should contain but a comparatively small proportion of spirits. Thus, says Dr. King Chambers: "Of sparkling wines, good champagne is by far the wholesomest, and, with a minimum of alcohol, possesses remarkable exhilarating power from the rapid absorption of its vinous ether diffused by the liberated carbonic acid."

The lamented Dr. Francis E. Anstie, the eminent clinician and founder of the "Practitioner," speaking of champagne, says that a low alcoholic strength of wine, together with the presence of carbonic acid, is often particularly useful.

The *Académie de Médecine* of Paris resolved at a recent sitting that, from an exclusively hygienic point of view, it considered the alcoholizing of wines injurious.

Dr. J. Swinburne, formerly health officer of the Port of New York, also expresses the opinion that champagne containing the smallest percentage of spirits is the most wholesome.

In this connection it is of interest to learn that Professor R. Ogden Doremus, of Bellevue Hospital Medical College, having recently had occasion to investigate the question of healthful beverages, has made chemical analysis of the most prominent brands of champagne, all the samples of which were purchased of Messrs. Park & Tilford. He reports that he finds G. H. Mumm & Co's. "Extra Dry" to contain in a marked degree less alcohol than any of the

others, and he does not hesitate therefore to cordially commend it not only for its purity but as the most wholesome of the champagnes. The house of G. H. Mumm & Co. is an old and reliable one, and the firm have quite recently been appointed by royal warrants Purveyors to Her Majesty Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales.

## SALICYLIC ACID AND LIME WATER IN DIPHTHERIA.

In the *Saratovsky Sanitarnyi Obozr* (*The Saratov Sanitary Review* a new and valuable Russian bi-weekly, edited by Dr. I. I. Molleson, of Saratov), No. 11, 1891, p. 354, and No. 12, p. 395, Dr. Petr A. Nedzwiecki, of Serdobsk, highly recommends the following formula.

R	Aquæ calcis	3 vi
	Acidi salicylici	3 j

M. Sig.: To shake well before using. A teaspoonful (to a child of one year), or a dessert-spoonful (to children of from two to ten), or a tablespoonful (to children above ten, and adults), every hour, day and night, later on, as the improvement advances; every two, and then three hours; after a complete disappearance of pseudo-membranes, three times daily, to continue for several days.

As a rule, all urgent symptoms vanish on the second or third day of the treatment, the throat becomes quite clean within a week. During the last twelve years the author resorted to the method in forty cases of diphtheria, and lost only one patient. The latter succumbed about the end of the second week of the disease, the lethal issue being caused by paralysis of the laryngeal muscles with a consecutive mechanical pneumonia (*Schluckpneumonie* of German authors). The writer draws attention to an extreme simplicity of the method and, on the other hand, to an imperative necessity of shaking well the mixture before each dose. Salicylic acid must be present therein in the state of suspension (which detail should be mentioned by the practitioner in his prescription, since many chemists add bichloride of soda to dissolve the acid) — *St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.*

## OZENA.

The following powder for insufflation is recommended by Cozzolino:

R	Salol	25
	Acid boric	15
	Acid salicylic	2j
	Acid thymic	1
	Talci. pulv	40

Misce bene.

To use this the nasal fossæ are first irrigated (or preferably sprayed) with a lukewarm carbolic acid solution, and the powder is insufflated. — *Ibid.*