THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE ARTICULAR RHEUMATISM BY HYPODERMIC INJECTIONS OF CARBOLIC ACID.—As long ago as the year 1875, Professor Senator read a paper before the Berlin Medical Society on the "Treatment of Acute Articular Rheumatism by Hypodermic Injections of a Strong Solution of Carbolic Acid in the neighborhood of the Affected Joints." He pointed out that marked alleviation of the local, and some amelioration of the general, symptoms quickly ensued, and that without any appreciable ill effects to the patient.

In the *Medical Press and Circular*, June 17, 1891, Mr. A. L. Gillespie states that he has tried this treatment in about twenty-four cases, and that in all instances the results were quite as satisfactory as the five cases reported in detail in which the hypodermic injection of from 2 to 5 minims of a ten per cent. solution of carbolic acid relieved the pain almost entirely within a few hours. In all these cases the salicylates had proved inefficacious.

Having regard to the speedy relief afforded in the first four cases, this procedure seems to merit some attention, for though it might appear somewhat heroic to inject into or close to acutely-inflamed joints a strong solution of carbolic acid, yet the relief afforded was so great and welcome that the patients often begged for a repetition of the injection when another joint became painful. The short time that elapses between the injection and the cessation of pain, only half a minute in one case, the rapid return of freedom of movement, and the ease and ability to sleep thereby afforded, warrant our using it in many cases. It is of special value in cases of gonorrhœal rheumatism, in which no good has arisen from the use of salicylates, but does not seem to act so well when many of the joints are affected.

Although the author has injected the solution directly into the distended synovial cavity of an inflamed joint without untoward results, it is safer and as efficacious to pass the point of the needle of the syringe through the skin obliquely, and, judging where the synovial membrane is, to inject the fluid as close outside the sac as possible. Injected into the sac itself a ten per cent. solution of carbolic acid precipitates the albumen present in the serous contents.

The rationle of the rapid disappearance of all the symptoms is, first, that it is due to the powerful local anæsthetic action of the acid; secondly, to some slight specific action against the rheumatic poison exerted by it. While with regard to the dose one might give, a grain of the pure acid in a child to 2 grains to 2½ grains in an adult would not be excessive.—*Thera. Gaz.*

PERMANGANATE OF POTASSIUM IN DIPHTHERIA.—Dr. Netzetzky says that his twenty-two years' practice convinced him that the best treatment of faucial diphtheria consists in an energetic use ef permanganate of potassium. The drug should be administered in the shape of paintings and gargle. The following strong solution should be employed:

℞—Potassii permanganatis, . . . ℥ j.
Aquæ dist., ... ℥ j.—M.
Sig.—To paint the affected surface every 3 hours.

For gargling, which is to be repeated as often, a teaspoonful of the same solution should be mixed with a tumblerful of boiled water.

In those cases in which the child is unable to gargle, the following mixture should be given internally:

℞—Solut. hydrogen. superoxydat., 2%, ℥ ij.
Glycerinæ, ... ℥ ij.
M. Sig.—A teaspoonful every 2 hours.

—*Med. Rec.*

ANGINA PECTORIS.—R. Douglas Powell (*Practitioner*, April, 1891, No. 274) argues that angina pectoris is a disturbed innervation of the heart or vessels, associated with more or less intense cardiac distress and pain, and a general prostration of the forces, always producing anxiety and often amounting to a sense of impending death. Considerable stress is laid on habitual high arterial tension as a factor in causation. Angina is not necessarily associated with coronary or other disease of the heart or vessels, although it is true that in fatal cases disease or obstruction of the coronary arteries is the most frequent lesion found, after which in order of frequency come fatty degeneration, aortic dilatation, aortic regurgitation, and aneurism. The author classifies the varieties of the affection as follows:

1. In its purer forms we observe disturbed innervation of the systemic of pulmonary vessels, causing their spasmodic contraction and consequently a sudden extra demand on the propelling power of the heart, violent palpitations, or more or less cramp or paralysis ensuing according to the reserve power and integrity of that organ—angina pectoris vasomotoria.

2. In other cases we have essentially the same mechanism, but with extra demand made upon a *diseased* heart—angina pectoris gravior.

3. The trouble may commence at the heart through irritation or excitation of the cardiac nerves, or from sudden accession of anæmia of cardiac muscles from coronary disease—primary cardiac angina.

4. In certain conditions of blood (often gout), or under certain reflex excitations of the inhibitory nerves, always, however, with a degenerate feeble heart in the backgronnd. We may observe intermittence in its action prolonged to syncope—syncopal angina.