

**Compression of the Nerves to Relieve Whooping-Cough.**—A. de Miranda announces in the *Semaine Med.* of October 20th, that compressing the vagus at the neck checks the vomiting in this disease, and that compression of the superior laryngeal rapidly calms the paroxysm of coughing. The family can be easily instructed how to perform the compression. In the early stages of the affection the bronchi are full of mucus and the cough must be allowed its course, but later the compression will be found practicable and effective. He also reports the cure of one case of uncontrollable vomiting in pregnancy by compression of the cervical portion of the pneumogastric.—*Périoscope de Med. Prog.*

Tellurate of sodium ten to twenty centigrams and alcohol, fifty grams, makes a solution of which a teaspoonful may be given in sweetened water morning and night in the night sweats of phthisis. Dr. Jôguet says it was successful in sixteen out of twenty cases.—*Lyon Med.*

#### DANGER IN TEA.

The manner in which the tea-habit has increased is alarming; it is fast becoming universal. It almost seems that soon only those already addicted to some other form of intemperance will form the abstemious class. Tea is drunk at all hours, with food and without, and is taken hot and cold. There is some excuse for the popularity of the hot infusion. In common with other hot beverages it is very acceptable as a stomachic and general stimulant, but it is the heat and not the infusion that stimulates. A cup of hot bouillon will always prove as agreeable and more nourishing and stimulating. No excuse can be found for the senseless habit of drinking the usually harmful iced tea. It is simply an expression of the natural perversity of human nature when given up to a pernicious habit: unsatisfied with the excess in its ordinary form, some new means, without reason or advantage, are devised for its more elaborate practice. In warm weather many other cold beverages are better.

Unless excessively sweetened, lemonade, orangeade, etc., are vastly

more palatable and certainly harmless. Another folly of tea-drinker is dilution of the infusion with milk, and further perversion with sugar. The ill effects of tea-drinking are sufficiently plentiful without the addition of the large amount of sugar taken daily, cup by cup, by a tea devotee, in itself quite sufficient to cause obstinate gastric derangements and their manifold complications.

The deleterious effects of tea are in some degree due to the alkaloids, which, when taken in constant or excessive doses produce insomnia, restlessness, mental depression and general nervous derangement. Occasional small doses act as cerebral stimulants; poisonous doses may produce great prostration and death. However, the greatest injury of tea-drinking is due to the astringent action of the tannin ingested; what may be called a tanning of the sensitive mucous membrane and its contained glands along the whole gastric intestinal tract is gradually effected.

This leads to a loss of sensibility to food stimuli, imperfect secretion of the digestive elements and insufficiency of intestinal movements, resulting at first in flatulence and chronic constipation and, ultimately in obstinate indigestion and its associate and consequent evils. It is true that occasionally a cup of hot tea does stimulate digestion, but it is the heat not the alkaloid.—*Jour. Med. Assoc.*

#### ANCIENT REMEDIES.

Most of the drugs on which we chiefly rely date very far back. Nearly all those most commonly in use were known thousands of years ago. Cassia and rhubarb were described by old Arabians, ergot was used in parturition by the peasants of Germany hundreds of years ago, male fern in tapeworm by the early Greeks and Romans. Mercury was a specific from time immemorial, and the list can be lengthened. The most ancient pharmacopoeia known was found between the legs of a mummy about 1500 B. C., and the principles of modern treatment were practiced by Asclepiades of Brussa.