

paration quite extensively, and find it of great merit as a readily assimilable tonic in anemia, from whatever cause—chlorosis, convalescence, etc.

Since this case I have used Hemaboloids in several other cases of convalescence from labor with gratifying results.—*The Medical Council*, July.

THE TREATMENT OF ITCHING.

In *Treatment* of December 22, 1898, SAVILL tells us that the treatment of general pruritus and prurigo merits very careful study, for it makes the lives of many people unbearable. He has met with two cases which resulted in insanity, and one which led to suicide. Baths and other local remedies are sometimes of use. A creolin bath, for instance (in the proportion of 1 drachm to 10 gallons), or an alkaline bath (bicarbonate of sodium 8 ounces, water at 90° F. 30 gallons). Plain warm water sometimes relieves, but not infrequently patients say that it aggravates the condition. Ointments and lotions are practically of very little use, because of the wide distribution of the trouble. A lead and zinc lotion may be tried, or preparations containing a little calamine or bismuth. Hydrocyanic acid seems to have a local sedative action, and a lotion of equal parts of liquor ammoniæ acetatis, methylated spirit and rose-water is pleasant, because it is cool. But all these measures are only palliative.

We must turn, therefore, to constitutional remedies. Hebra recommended carbolic acid internally in doses of one-half grain. Tincture of gelsemium, twenty minims given thrice daily, has been known to relieve. But perhaps the best of the internal remedies hitherto in use is chloral hydrate, ten or fifteen grains thrice daily. However, it is unfortunately attended by narcotic properties, and a dangerous habit may be induced, and the moment it is left off the itching returns as badly as before. Pilocarpine internally, by promoting perspiration, is sometimes useful, as already mentioned. The bromides would theoretically be indicated here, and in cases attended with a marked neurotic element they are useful. But in ordinary cases of prurigo and pruritus, beyond the fact that they induce sleep, and help the patient to cease scratching, they are in his experience absolutely useless, though he has tried them many times.

In 1896 Dr. Savill first tried calcium chloride in large doses, the idea having occurred to him after reading Professor Wright's researches into the effect of this remedy in increasing the coagulability of the blood. The fact that cases