

## Selections.

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**SUPPURATIVE OTITIS.**—Discharge from the ear is always a symptom of serious import, because it so often indicates the presence of an abscess in the middle ear, which may eat through the thin, bony wall and set up a fatal inflammation of the brain.—*Summary.*

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**CARBONATE OF SODA.**—Thubert (*These de Paris*, No. 39, 1896-97) points out that, much in the same way as calomel is changed in corrosive sublimate, so the bicarbonate of soda is in the system converted into the carbonate; it is, therefore, better to administer the latter than the former; the whole amount ingested is utilised in the stomach, a smaller dose is required, and less sodium is introduced into the body.—*The British Medical Journal.*

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**FOR BLEEDING GUMS.**—After the extraction of teeth, Vian recommends the following as an efficient styptic to check the bleeding:

R	Chloroform .....	ʒi.
	Acid. tannic } aa .....	ʒss.
	Menthol } .....	
	Tinct. kramerae .....	ʒi.
	Aquæ dest. ....	q. s. ad. Oj.

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**FLESHY MOLES AND ABORTION.**—Neumann (*Monatsschrift f Geburtshilfe u. Gynäk.*, February, 1897) publishes an important communication on a disease of the products of gestation already described by Breus in 1892 under the name of “tuberous subchorionic hæmatoma of the decidua.” He concludes, however, that Breus simply described a form of the well known fleshy mole. The histology, as laid down by Breus, corresponds to that of other moles described in scattered papers by careful observers. Blood being irregularly extravasated under the chorion, that membrane is pushed inwards in an irregular fashion. Hence no doubt the term “tuberous hæmatoma” is not incorrect, but the same might be applied to most fleshy moles. Neumann concludes that the fleshy mole is undoubtedly a form of the process known as abortion, a fact long admitted, but he advises the obstetrician to remember that the pathological changes which produce it may occur at very different stages of pregnancy. Hence the precise time at which the arrest of normal pregnancy occurred cannot always be determined by examination of a fleshy mole.—*The British Medical Journal.*