

pregnancy. Mercury had a strong action on the formation of the teeth, and the distinctive character it imparted to them was often seen as the result of the use of mercurial powders.

Anæsthetics next came under consideration. Chloroform was more frequently used in Scotland, its home, than in England, where it was considered unsafe, since the patient was in an upright position. Ether was more generally employed in England, especially in combination with gas to deepen the anæsthesia. Nitrous oxide, or laughing gas, was the chief agent employed, the most important factor being its purity. The effect was produced in 30 to 40 seconds, but, of course, owing to the nature of the operations, which necessitated the suspension of the anæsthetic, was only of short duration. In a few instances this difficulty had been met by spraying the agent down the pharynx through the nose.

As local anæsthetics, important service was done by chloride and bromide of ethyl. With regard to cocaine, more information was required as to the impurities, which made its use sometimes dangerous. It was important to make the injections slowly, from quarter to half an hour being required for half a grain. Strong carbolic acid also belonged to the same class, as well as ether and other liquids applied with the view of producing local insensitiveness. The use of the latter was, however, almost as bad as the extraction, owing to the cold produced. Electricity in a few cases deadened the pain, in a few made it worse, and in the majority of cases had no effect one way or the other.

Precipitated chalk was the foundation of most tooth powders; areca nut was useful in flabbiness of the gums, but camphor was of little real use. The statement that it injuriously affected the enamel required confirmation. Yellow bark and myrrh were also frequent ingredients; essential oils were not much good save as flavoring agents. Soap and punice were both useful constituents. Carbon and soot could not be commended, as particles got up under the free border of the gums and caused them to recede. Any tooth powder containing a free acid, such for instance as cream of tartar, should be condemned.

In mouth washes, myrrh, tannin, catechu, and other drugs containing tannic acid were used as astringents; carbolic acid, permanganate of potassium, sanitas, thymol, borax, &c., as antiseptics; bismuth nitrate, quillaia, and alum as purifiers. The latter should be used carefully as it often contained free acid. Chlorinated lime has been employed without much success as a bleaching agent for discolored teeth.

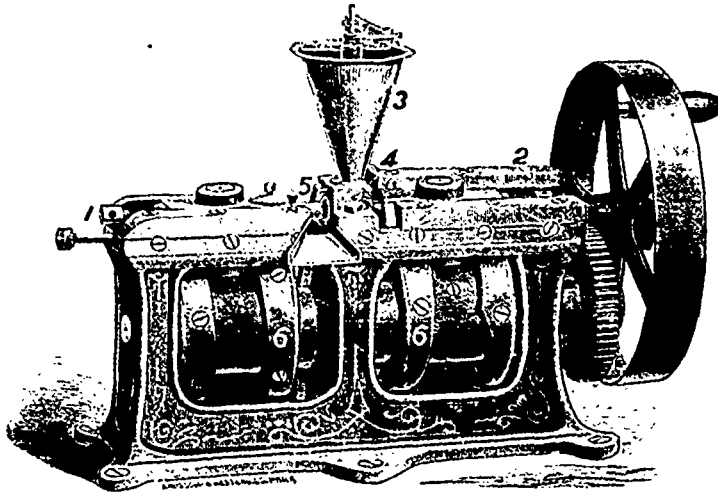
A number of drugs were used in the treatment of neuralgia, such as ammon-

ium chloride, Indian hemp, chloral hydrate, hyoscyamus, menthol, opium, phosphorus, &c. Potassium iodide, and quinine were also given in mixtures, while mustard and cayenne were applied locally.

For gum-boil, poppy-heads and camomile decoction was still used, but a word of warning was required with regard to external fomentation; this should never be done, as it brought on the breaking of the abscess on the face, which was followed by permanent disfigurement.

To control hemorrhage after the extraction of teeth, plugs of lint were used, which had been soaked with tannic acid, hamamelis, &c.; matico leaf was sometimes very effectual. For inflammation round the roots of the teeth iodine was used as well as capsicum and aconite.

Tannin borax and iodine also played a part as temporary fillings. The author urged the necessity of rinsing the mouth out with plain or alkaline water after each dose of acid medicine when a long course of this was taken (e. g. iron mixture).



TABLET MACHINE.

Other substances mentioned were copper sulphate and wax or guttapercha in making models of the mouth and arrangement of the teeth. *B. and C. Druggist.*

#### A New Tablet Machine.

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Read at the Pharmaceutical Meeting of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

REALIZING the great demand for compressed tablets, the writer has endeavored to bring before the profession a tablet-compressing machine that is simple, powerful, compact and, as nearly as possible, perfect in every respect. The accompanying cut shows the appearance of the machine, the motions of which are positive and automatic.

The frame is one solid casting; the hand machine weighs about 125 pounds, occupies a counter space of 10 x 17 inches and stands 9½ inches high; power machines have an additional stand to give clearance for the large fly wheel. The capacity is from 55 to 95 tablets per minute, and is increased in proportion to

the number of plungers in operation. The pressure can be regulated to any desired degree, is direct and comes to bear between the cams which impart the desired motions to the sliding blocks. The steel plungers, if necessary nickel plated, have a projecting shoulder on the lower part and may be of any size or shape, and hopper and mould are stationary. There being absolutely no waste, a saving of material results, and the absence of friction from feed makes the machine run easy.

Ample provision is made for taking up lost motion from wear of moving parts. The dies and moulds can be easily changed from one size to another, and the regulations being so few and simple, they are readily understood and easily manipulated. The working parts being inclosed, accumulation of dust is prevented, wearing of the parts is lessened and foreign matters are not rubbed into the mould for compression; hence, the tablets are kept clean and unobjectionable for hypodermic medication.

Tablets are formed by the following methods: When the plungers are below the hopper, they receive the proper amount of material, which is conveyed under cover into the mould; one plunger is held stationary while the other advances and compresses the material into the shape desired; then both dies recede, thus loosening the tablet in the mould and bringing it to the end of the mould, where it is ejected by the wiper.

**PENTAL.—A NEW ANÆSTHETIC.**—A new anæsthetic has been given the name of pental. It is produced in Germany, its inventor being

Professor Von Mering, director of the Medical Policlinic, in Halle, who chose the name he has given it owing to the circumstance that it contains 5 carbon atoms. It is very volatile and easily combustible. It can, it is said, be administered exactly like chloroform, and the quantity required each time need cost no more than 6d. Anæsthesia set in after three or four minutes—rarely later. It is not deep, but suffices to render small operations, such as the extraction of teeth, painless. It is neither accompanied nor followed by any unpleasant effects.—*Nat. Druggist.*

**TOOTHACHE** may be relieved by naphthalin, 5 grains, dissolved in chloroform, 1 dram.

**PHYLANTHUS NIRURI L.**, by the natives called Daon Manitan, is employed in Java as a diuretic, laxative, abortifacient and antiteric.

**TASI**, largely used medicinally by South Americans, is being brought to the attention of practitioners as an excellent galactagogue. The plant is known as *Morrenia brachystephana*.