

gramme and a half to three grammes of ergot daily for about two weeks. Another, who presented grave ataxic symptoms from the outset, with delirium, trismus, carphologia, and intermittent pulse, took ergot for twelve days, the disease assuming a milder form and recovery following. Finally, a patient with typhoid fever, who was three and a half months pregnant, was treated with ergot for fifteen days, and got well without miscarriage, although she took a daily dose of a gramme and a half or two grammes of the drug.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

THYMOL AS A REMEDY IN SKIN DISEASES.

Dr. Crocker proposes the following formulæ:

1. An ointment consisting of one ounce of vaseline, and from five to thirty grains of thymol, the thymol being dissolved in the vaseline.

2. A lotion consisting of thymol, five grains, rectified spirit and glycerine, each one ounce, water sufficient for eight ounces. The glycerine is added to correct the dessicating effect of the spirit.

3. A solution of from five to eighty grains of thymolate of potash in eight ounces of water. The alkali serves to dissolve the thymol. When the vaseline ointment is stronger than twenty grains to the ounce, the thymol should be first dissolved in alcohol in the proportion of one minim to one grain.

Thymol is an irritant to the skin in a concentrated form, but when the strength is properly adjusted, it is claimed that the remedy forms a desirable substitute for the tarry preparations. It possesses the advantage over tar of being colorless, and having a rather agreeable odor.

In psoriasis Crocker begins with an ointment of five grains to the ounce, which is gradually increased in strength, sometimes as high as thirty grains to the ounce. In eczema, a weaker ointment was used (grs. iii, or grs. v ad ̄ j). As a parasiticide it did not appear to possess any marked superiority over other remedies in common use.—*British Medical Journal*, p. 225, 1878.

INDICATIONS FOR THE USE OF DIGITALIS.

W. H. Day, M.D., in an article on neurosal affections of the heart in children, gives the following indications for the use of digitalis:

1. That when the heart's action is weak and intermittent digitalis should be given with caution, whether the weakness and intermission depend on organic change, or whether they are purely neurosal.

2. If the heart's action is quick, though weak and intermittent, digitalis may be serviceable by reducing the frequency of the cardiac contractions, and lengthening the diastole; if the heart is slow and feeble in its impulse digitalis ought not in my opinion to be administered alone, but

should be given with a remedy like iron or strychnia.

3. In palpitation, from purely neurosal affections of the heart, with the heart's action hard and hammering, as in some cases of chorea and Grave's disease, bromide of potassium does good, and not digitalis. Hence, digitalis is unwarrantable in simple hypertrophy, but when dilatation is combined with it, it is of service.

4. When there is weakness of the muscular structure combined with palpitation, belladonna, or digitalis with bromide of potassium, or iron, or strychnia, are of service.

5. In palpitation produced by muscular effort, digitalis is of less service, and often does harm. In muscular inefficiency, when the heart does not empty itself at every systole, and arterial pressure is low, then it does good.—*Practitioner*, Sept., 1878.

IODOFORM IN EYE-DISEASE.

Patrick J. Hayes, L.R.C.P. Ed., L.R.C.S.I., in *Medical Times and Gazette*: I am anxious to direct the attention of my professional brethren to the value of iodoform as a therapeutic agent in the treatment of certain subacute and chronic diseases affecting the eye and eyelids. Many practitioners are of course aware that for a considerable time iodoform has been used as an application in cases of trachoma or granular lids, and reports have been published, in America and elsewhere, illustrative of the good results which frequently ensue upon its employment. I have not, however, seen any recommendation of it for such cases as phlyctenular and pustular ophthalmia, corneal ulceration, obstinate keratitis, ciliary blepharitis, etc.; hence as I have found it to benefit several patients so affected I venture to invite for it a trial at the hands of my confrères. With respect to the method of application I may mention that it is my custom to crush the crystals until they become reduced to a very fine powder, and then, with a delicate camel's-hair pencil, the powder is freely dusted over the affected surface. For use upon eyelids such an ointment as the following will be found convenient: iodoform, one part; vaselin, four parts; mix. Iodoform, when brought into contact with the eye, does not give rise to pain, and children who have once experienced its effect will readily tolerate subsequent applications. I have only to add that it is not suitable for, and ought not to be used during, the early or acute stage of conjunctivitis.

HOW TO KILL A TAPEWORM IN AN HOUR.

Kousoo and kamala are expensive drugs, nauseous to the taste, not always effectual, and requiring several days to effect the death of the worm. Dr. Karl Bettelheim, of Vienna, narrates, in the *Deutsches Archiv*, just received, a heroic method and nearly sure cure in the short space of