

bichloride of mercury. It is soluble in water, and is not poisonous. It may be used in aqueous solution in the proportion of 1 part to 1,000 of water. This solution may be used for the hands, wounds, or instruments. Langenbech speaks very favorably of it, and recommends it for gonorrheal injection in the proportion of 1 to 1,200. In dyspepsia due to bacteria, he gives the solution in teaspoonful doses every two hours. When used for the hands, instruments, etc., the slight discoloration may be relieved by the use of ammonia.

THE NITRITES IN ASTHMA.—Dr. Fraser (*Am. Jour. Med. Sci.*), writing on the cause of asthma, and the influence of the nitrites upon it, establishes the view that the dyspnea of asthma is caused by spasm of the bronchial muscles, and points out the value of the nitrites in its relief, and that the best therapeutic effects are not obtained by the inhalation of nitrites, but by their administration through the stomach. The facts seem to justify the assertion that their administration in this manner in asthmatic dyspnea or orthopnea is entitled to rank as one of the most valuable applications of pharmacology to the treatment of disease, an application at least as valuable as that in the painful agina of aortic disease, to which nitrites are at present almost restricted.

PERMANGANATE OF POTASH IN TOOTHACHE.—Dr. Popoff writes, says the *Br. Med. Jour.*, that he has most successfully treated upwards of three hundred cases of toothache from dental caries, by administering one-twentieth per cent. solution of permanganate of potassium in the form of a mouth-wash. The following is the formula :—

R.—Potass. permang., 3 grains ; aq. destil, or fontanæ, 1 (Russ.) fl. pound, M. One tablespoonful to be taken in the mouth, every half-hour, and to be held therein on the affected side for several minutes. The most agonizing pain is said gradually to disappear in a few hours. The wash acts, besides, as an excellent deodorizer.

GANGRENE FOLLOWING THE USE OF COCAINE.—Dr. Nichols relates (*N. Y. Med. Jour.*) two cases of gangrene occurring in minor operations, cocaine having been used as an anesthetic. The first was the amputation of a crushed finger, where an injection of 15 min. of a 15% solution of cocaine

hydrochloride had been used. On the fourth day gangrene was found, and re-amputation resorted to. The second case was one of circumcision, in which gangrene showed itself in the third day. The writer queries, what part, if any, did cocaine play in the causation of gangrene. Both patients were healthy, and were aged sixty-five and twenty-four, respectively.

CREASOTE IN PHTHISIS.—Numerous cases of improvement in phthisis by the administration of creasote, have been reported (*Lancet*). It is useful in the first and second stages, but not in the third stage of this disease. It may be given in capsules, pills, or in wine, glycerine, or fish-oil, to the amount of about 3 drops in 24 hours. It produces an alleviation of some of the most distressing symptoms, as lessened cough and expectoration ; fever and night sweats ; as also increase in body weight. The above seems to be fully substantiated by careful observation in numerous cases by prominent physicians, and is therefore worthy of the most serious and careful investigation by the profession.

FOR IRRITABLE BLADDER.—The following is said (*Maryland Med. Jour.*) to allay the frequent desire to urinate, with irritable bladder, when due to phosphatic deposit in the urine.

R.—Acidi benzoici, ʒij.
Boracis, ʒiij.
Aque, ʒxij.
M. Sig.—Tablespoonful three times a day.

This mixture has, upon two occasions, acted so efficiently in what was thought to be cystitis that cystotomy was dispensed with.

STROPHANTHUS.—The London correspondent of *The Therap. Gazette* says of strophantaus:—"Strophanthus is at the head of cardiovascular agents ; it rapidly raises the arterial pressure in cases of dilatation of the heart, and its power for good is shown by free diuresis and a speedy improvement of the subjective symptoms. Caffeine is regarded more as a direct renal stimulant, not a cardiac tonic, and to secure its full action it should be combined with digitalis, convallaria or strophanthus."

EHRENDORFER'S PENCILS OF IODOFORM.—These pencils (*Lancet*) have the following composition :—Two drachms and a half of iodoform and fifteen