

MM. Straus and Wurtz, who publish their researches in *Archives de Medecine Experimentale*, wisely remind their readers that the germs, when protected by animal and vegetable tissues and introduced into the stomach in ordinary nutrition, are not exposed to so direct and prolonged action of the acid constituents of gastric juice as in these experiments.

SIMPLE APPARATUS FOR MAKING SULPHURETTED HYDROGEN.—Remove the cork and piston of a glass syringe, fill it to within a third of the large opening with morsels of sulphide of iron of about the size of a pea, and fit to the same orifice, a rubber tube connecting with a glass syphon. To the small opening of the syringe attach a piece of rubber tubing connecting with a glass tube furnished with a stop-cock. The latter being opened, the syringe is placed in a conical glass vessel containing a sufficient quantity of hydrochloric acid to cover the iron salt. The gas commences at once to form. To stop the disengagement of gas close the stop-cock. The syringe is then placed in a jar of pure water, and, the cock being again opened, the apparatus becomes filled with water and chloride of iron is dissolved.—*Bull. de la Soc. de Phar.*, Brussels, Feb. 15.

A NEW EXPECTORANT.—Cocillana, the bark of an undetermined species of guarea, discovered in Bolivia in 1886 by Professor H. H. Rusby, has been recommended by Dr. Reynold W. Wilcox as an expectorant. The powdered bark produces nausea, a metallic taste, early discharge of mucus, and afterwards dryness of the throat, slight giddiness, slight perspiration, and has some action on the bowels. A concentrated tincture of the bark, given in doses varying from 3ss. to 3ij., in cases of acute and chronic bronchitis, was found to have a most satisfactory expectorant action. The effect is produced after from three to six hours, the expectoration becoming more watery and cough easier. The drug appears to act by stimulating the muciparous glands, and Dr. Wilcox considers that it is to be preferred to ipecacuanha in that it does not readily cause nausea when given in doses sufficient to produce the expectorant effect. It is not suitable to cases of senile

bronchitis with bronchiectasis, owing to its markedly increasing the bronchorrhœa. The tree from which the bark is obtained reaches the extreme height of 30 or 40 feet; the bark is thick and ash-colored; the branches bear large pinnate leaves with small inconspicuous flowers in the axils. No adequate chemical examination has yet been made, so that the constituent to which its medicinal powers are due is not known.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.—Dr. Cruikshank sued a Mr. Gordon for slander, in saying, "He treated my child for malaria when it had another and entirely different disease," and "he nearly killed my child, and would have killed it if another doctor had not been called in." The jury rendered a verdict for the doctor for \$1,600 damages, which was confirmed by each successive court, and finally by the Supreme Court of the State of New York. In addition to the specific charge, the slanderer repeatedly stated that the Doctor was generally incompetent as a physician. The most important point reached by the decision was that the physician need not prove the damages sustained, as that would be impossible, but, the slanderous language being uttered, the damage resulting therefrom may be assumed. The case is fully reported in *Brooklyn Medical Journal*.

SULPHONAL.—Dr. Schmidt gives in his inaugural thesis at the University of Wurzburg a review of everything that has been published on the effect of sulphonal. His own experiments are confined to six cases, chiefly to phthisical patients, in which he administered the drug for the relief of nocturnal sweats in doses of seven grains and a half. The result was generally favorable, and Dr. Schmidt ascribes this to a direct influence of sulphonal on the sudorific centre of the medulla oblongata. He concludes that sulphonal is a useful hypnotic in most cases in doses of from fifteen grains to two scruples. It is also successfully administered in the stage of excitement in mental disease. Digestion and circulation are rarely interfered with, but occasionally more or less vertigo or ataxy is observed in consequence. In heart disease the drug has sometimes no effect;