

very simple matters, scarcely worth putting on paper; but the professional acquaintance with them is not as ample as it might be with advantage to invalids and sick persons. When a medical man lifts his eyebrows or protrudes his lip when "Baby-Foods" are mentioned in relation to dyspeptics and persons acutely sick, the impression he makes on my mind is this: that he has not made a study of the matter of food and its digestion, and that he has yet to learn some matters which, when acquired, will enlarge his usefulness and strengthen his hands when he stands by the bedside of his patient.—*Extract from Letter Phil. Med. Times.*

NOTES UPON GLYCERINE.

Of the thousand and one uses to which we put this article of materia medica the following may be of special interest because of the simple and harmless nature of this substance:—In one drachm doses it acts as a safe emetic for infants and young children, and in combination with syrup of rhubarb prevents the astringent after-effect of this usual remedy. A small quantity vaporised alleviates in a great measure distressing coughs when the vapours are inhaled. In combination with a little tincture of iodine and iodide of potassium it has been prescribed with marked benefit in phthisical complaints. When ferric chloride astringent compounds of iron are administered for a long time, the glycerine prevents the iron exerting its powerful astringent action to a great extent: it should, however, be borne in mind that after a time reduction from the ferric to the ferrous state takes place, as was shown about three years ago in a paper read before the Pharmaceutical Conference by Mr. Schacht, of Clifton. In combination with rum and a little flavouring agent it has been used in place of cod-liver oil. With chloral hydrate, camphor, alcohol, and oil of juniper, as a liniment it has been used for rheumatism, for which it is well adapted, giving temporary, if not permanent relief, to that kind of rheumatism which can be reached by external application. Glycerine is said not to be absorbed by the skin, and is therefore recommended as a basis for such powerful medicaments as mercuric chloride for the treatment of such skin disease as scabies, etc. One and a half drachm of this

chemical dissolved in 3 f. oz. of glycerine is recommended as a useful application for scabies. Equal parts of glycerine and castor oil, when blended well together, forms an opaque emulsion-like mixture which acts as a mild and effectual aperient in one drachm doses. The efficacy of the castor oil is increased and its disagreeableness masked in no small degree. A mixture of extract cascara sagrada, tincture of belladonna, tincture of nux vomica, and glycerine, in suitable proportions, forms an admirable combination as a gentle tonic laxative. Glycerine is a powerful solvent and is capable of taking up one-sixth its weight of alum, which combination has been so recently recommended in the journals as a concentrated astringent solution to be kept at hand.—*Birmingham Med. Review.*

TREATMENT OF OBESITY.—The principal feature of Ebstein's treatment of obesity is the use of fat. The following is his dietary:

1. *Breakfast.*—In winter, at half-past seven; in summer at half-past six, a large cup of black tea without sugar or milk, 50 grammes of white or brown bread toasted, with plenty of butter.

2. *Dinner.*—Two to half past two, soup (often of bone-marrow), 120 to 180 grammes of roast or boiled meat, with a fat sauce to fat meat preferred; vegetables in moderation, preferably the legumissions; also cabbage. Carrots almost proscribed potatoes; entirely so. For dessert, fruit is permitted, fruit stewed without sugar, or a salad. As drink, two or three glasses of light white wine. Also after dinner a large cup of black tea, without milk or sugar.

3. *Supper.*—Half-past seven to eight. In winter almost regularly; in summer occasionally a large cup of black tea, without milk or sugar. An egg or a piece of fat roast meat, or even both. A little fat ham, sausage, or fish smoked or fresh; about thirty grammes of white bread, with plenty of butter, finally a little tea or fresh fruit.—*Bulletin General de Therapeutique.*—R. Z.

Dr. Wilson, of Denver, Col., reports two cases in which the continued use of cocaine for two or three days produced opacity of the cornea.