

Dr. Ingalls reported a case in which a man had swallowed a peach stone. It had come as far as the rectum, but could not be passed further. As it was too high to be reached with the finger, the patient was etherized, and the stone was extracted by the aid of forceps.

Dr. Bush said that it was the custom with persons who attempted to pass spurious coin to swallow them, often, to avoid detection. In such cases their diet was composed of hard-boiled eggs, they having found by experience that this diet rendered the foreign body harmless, by enveloping it in a coat, and in about three days the coin would be found in the fæces.

Dr. Fitz said that if the junction of the pharynx with the œsophagus was the narrowest part of the alimentary canal, anything which will pass this point will pass through the other parts without trouble. Hence if a body of good shape has been actually swallowed, no alarm need be felt.

#### SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION OF ETHER IN PNEUMONIA.

From experience in fourteen cases, Dr. Barth, *Lyon Med.*, strongly advocates the subcutaneous injection of about one gramme of ether in adynamic pneumonia. Almost instantly respiration becomes easier, pulse gains in strength and fullness, while the color of the face becomes more natural. In two or three minutes the ethereal odor is noticed in the breath, showing that the volatile liquid has reached the air passages. It is necessary to use the injection at least twice a day, and in severe cases four doses may be thus administered in twenty-four hours without inconvenience. Dr. Barth has not exceeded this dose, nor has he experienced any trouble from the punctures, in the way of serious irritation.—*Glasgow Med. Journal*.

#### TREATMENT OF PUERPERAL MASTITIS BY IODIDE OF LEAD OINTMENT.

The breast being thoroughly dried and perfectly cleansed, we smear its surface with the official ointment of the iodide of lead, and then gently rub it in until a considerable quantity is absorbed. Soak a piece of sheet-lint, of a size sufficient to cover the breast, in the following solution: acetate of lead from 3 ij to 5 ss to the pint, of a one-to-four solution of alcohol. If we desire a more elegant preparation, eau de cologne may be substituted. If there be much pain, it is often used to apply an ice-bladder upon the sheet-lint covering the breast. The lint should be frequently dipped in the lead lotion. The following phenomena will present themselves: first, a cessation of pain, fullness and uneasy feeling of distention, which is so annoying. It is common for the patient, who has been exhausted by pain, and consequent loss of sleep, to fall into a refreshing slumber even after

the application is made. In the course of three or four hours, the breasts may be completely emptied by an experienced hand. The ointment should be used as a lubricant during the manipulation. By applying the iodide freely twice, or thrice, daily, the secretion will be gone in less than one week, as a rule. The pivotal point in the treatment is the use of this ointment; the evaporating lotion, and cold being only adjuncts. I have proved by repeated trials that, when applied alone, it is capable of exerting an absolute control over the secretion. I believe we here invoke a specific action from the lead iodide. A point of considerable moment is the partial anesthesia it is capable of inducing, which thus enables us to empty the glands, where before even slight pressure was badly borne. Its action without doubt extends to the epithelial cells and inhibits their secretory activity, as is seen in its action, in cases like the above, in causing the drying up of the secretion.

\* \* \* \* A word as to the use of belladonna. I must confess that I have met with poor success from its employment. My experience may have been exceptionally unfortunate, but reasoning from it alone, I could not recommend it as capable of accomplishing more than the expectant treatment—*Dr. Thomas T. Gaunt, in American Journal of Obstetrics*, October, 1882.

#### MIDWIFERY IN THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

The brother (non-medical) of one of our members resident in Honolulu, gives the following description of the *modus operandi* of the Hawaiian midwife. "The midwives here are for the most part men—usually old men. When the woman's time draws near and labor commences, she is placed sitting on a man's knee with her back to him. He then clinches his hands over her abdomen, and with all his strength hugs the woman, until the child is actually forced into the world, falling to the floor between the operator's feet. The umbilical cord is then cut, and always left very long. Then the woman is placed upon her feet, and the midwife takes her tongue, and draws it steadily until she gulps, or retches, this action causing the prompt ejection of the after-birth. After this she goes and flounders about in the sea, and returns to land, ready for such domestic duties as may fall to her lot or inclination. Native children are—as may be inferred from the way in which they are introduced to existence—very easily born; but should the baby stick at all, or make any bother about being born, then the mother knows it is going to be half white, as this latter kind of baby is so much bigger in the forehead. It is a wise child that knows its own father in this country. So well recognized is this fact that natives never ask, 'who is your father?' but only, 'Who is your mother?' when they desire any acquaintance with one another's genealogy."—*Brit. Med. Journal*.