

a letter to the *London Lancet*: "We find the sedatives, morphia, hydrocyanic acid, and chloroform, to lessen the excitability of the respiratory centres; we find glycerine, which will tend to retain the sedatives for a longer time in contact with the back of the throat, and will also act to some extent as a nutrient. We have combined with these nitric acid and quassia, which have so-called tonic action in the stomach." The nitric acid will diminish the pulmonary secretion and therefore expectoration; but on the other hand, when as under certain circumstances is the case, the cough is very troublesome with insufficient secretion and expectoration, potash has a marked effect in rendering the pulmonary secretion more fluid and abundant. This effect of potash is specially referred to by Dr. Andrew Clark.

## Surgery.

### IODOFORM IN SKIN DISEASES.

The idea of using iodoform in the treatment of skin-diseases other than those due to syphilis has occurred to others as well as to Dr. Balmano Squire. For some time past, it has been employed at University College Hospital: first by my colleague Mr. Godlee, and subsequently by myself. He had used it, in combination with the oil of eucalyptus, in some cases of eczema, and in lupus after erosion; the formula most used being iodoform gr. x, oil of eucalyptus ʒss to ʒj, vaseline ʒj. I have used the iodoform without the eucalyptus with success in some cases of subacute eczema, mainly on the back of the hands and forearms; in suitable cases, the result was often very rapid. I have now a boy under my care with eczema of the head, in which there was a profuse sero-purulent discharge, which became offensive in a short time; to this, an ointment, with ten grains of iodoform to the ounce of lard, was applied, speedily removing all fœtor, and reducing the discharge to serous only. It was, however, rather too stimulating at this stage to be continued long. Its penetrating and disagreeable odour necessarily limits its employment, though the oil of eucalyptus partially obviates this, besides increasing the solubility of

the iodoform. It is slightly stimulant as well as antiseptic, and must, therefore, be restricted to cases requiring some stimulation. I can well believe that it would be efficacious in impetigo contagiosa, by destroying the micro-organism on which the inoculability of the disease probably depends; but the less unpleasant ammoniated mercury ointment will be preferred by most, as it is so very efficient.—*H. Radcliffe Crocker, M.D., 28 Welbeck Street, Physician to the Skin Department, University College Hospital.—British Medical Journal.*

DEPILATION BY RESINOUS APPLICATION.—Dr. L. D. Bulkley, of New York, recommends the following formula and process for depilation in cases of favus:

Yellow wax. ....	3 iij ;	12.00 Gm. ;
Shellac.....	3 iv ;	16.00 "
Resin.....	3 vj ;	24.00 "
Burgundy pitch...	3 x ;	40.00 "
Gum dammar.....	3 x ;	40.00 "

Melt them together and form into sticks from one-fourth to three-fourths inch in diameter, and two to three inches long. The hair having been cropped short, the stick is applied with a slight rotary or twisting motion, and after a few minutes removed by bending it sidewise, by which movement the hair adhering to it will be withdrawn. The hairs thus left on the stick are burned off. In ringworm of the scalp the disease renders the hairs so brittle that they will break before being pulled out, so that the method will not be applicable in this disease.

Mr. John Croft has been elected to the recently instituted chair of Clinical Surgery in St. Thomas' Hospital, London. Dr. C. S. Roy of Cambridge, has succeeded to Dr. Greenfield, in the Brown Institution.

The rare occurrence of the simultaneous occupancy of the Presidential chairs of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, by members of one hospital and school, was this year celebrated by a banquet given to Sir William Jenner, and Mr. Erichsen, by their colleagues at University College.