

During the corresponding period of 1890-91 they had been treated with bromide of potassium and had 331 fits, being a difference of eighty-five in favour of the strontium treatment. Both drugs were given in exactly the same doses; bromidism was never observed. One of the patients who derived most benefit from the strontium treatment ceased to suffer from attacks of maniacal excitement to which he was previously subject after each epileptic fit. Deny, therefore, agrees with Féré in thinking bromide of strontium a valuable auxiliary to bromide of potassium in the treatment of epilepsy, and even more effectual than the latter drug in diminishing the number of fits. Vallon, on the other hand, has had to discontinue bromide of strontium in three cases, as it seemed to make the seizures more frequent.—*British Medical Journal*.

**TONSILLOTOMY AS A PREVENTIVE OF DIPHTHERIA.**—Lancry (*Journ. des Sciences Méd. de Lille*) attributes the predisposition of the children in some families to contract diphtheria and croup to the presence of hypertrophy of the tonsils. He has very frequently had occasion to observe the coincidence of enlarged tonsils in parents and children with liability to infectious "sore throat" and diphtheria. In a very large proportion of his cases of tonsillectomy the enlargement was hereditary, and the brothers and sisters of the children operated on were often the subjects of the croup. Moreover, the sporadic cases of diphtheria which have come under his notice have almost always been in children whose tonsils were hypertrophied. He, therefore, believes that removal of the tonsils is indicated in children in whom these bodies are enlarged if any other child in the family has suffered from diphtheria. Some weeks should, however, be allowed to elapse after exposure to infection before the operation is done, to allow time for the destruction of any germs that may have found their way into the child's throat.—*British Medical Journal*.

**A LINIMENT FOR NEURALGIA.**—*L'Union Médicale* for June 4, 1892, recommends the employment of the following liniment:

R Chloroform ..... ʒvi.  
Sulphuric ether..... ʒi.  
Spirits of camphor..... ʒiii.  
Tincture of opium..... ʒiss.

M. Sig. —Soak a small piece of flannel with the liniment, and apply over the painful part.

—*Therapeutic Gazette*.

**THE USE OF CHLOROFORM IN TUBERCULAR AFFECTIONS.**—Desprez (*L'Union Médicale*, June 18, 1892) strongly advises the use of chloroform as a rapidly diffusible, safe and powerful antiseptic agent in tuberculosis and other diseases due to micro-organisms. Since its great value has been demonstrated in cholera, he has used it in pulmonary tuberculosis, in various forms, either as a vapour or taken internally. The usual formula employed is as follows:

R Beechwood creosote ..... grs. xlv.  
Alcoholic tincture of cinchona... ʒi.  
Pure chloroform ..... ʒiii.  
Malaga wine..... ʒx.

M. Sig.—A dessertspoonful in half a glass of water before meals and at bedtime.

This combined with perfect hygienic and supporting measures, has given in early phthisis such unexpected results that the writer has been tempted to doubt the correctness of his diagnosis. He has used a spray of chloroform water in wards where influenza has been raging for months, with the result that this disorder entirely ceased. He has also seen influenza apparently prevented in an institution by the same method. In tubercular and purulent cavities the best results have followed its use. The writer attributes much of its active antiseptic power to the chlorine which it contains, and which is freely liberated. —*Therapeutic Gazette*.

**HOW TO ADMINISTER THE ETHEREAL EXTRACT OF MALE FERN.**—Dr. Crequy (*Lo Sperimentale*) prescribes the ethereal extract of male fern as follows:

R Ethereal extract male fern gms. 5  
Calomel . . . . . dgms. 8.

Sufficient for fourteen capsules. Two capsules every ten minutes.

This prescription is based upon the fact that the active and toxic principal of the male fern is soluble in fatty oils. Hence castor oil, the common purgative after male fern, should be avoided in the expulsion of tænia by this drug.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*.