

The skin is first to be cleansed with soap and water, but is not to be shaved, as the pulling upon the little hairs favours the introduction of the remedy through the skin. Friction should last for at least five minutes. After the friction is over the limb should be wrapped in cotton in order to preserve an even temperature. Treatment is to be repeated daily. One inconvenience of this method of administering salicylic acid is the desquamation of the epidermis, on account of the solvent action of the acid upon the cornified layer. However, this desquamation does not occur until five or six days have passed, and by that time the therapeutic effect of the drug has usually been fully realized. At any rate, desquamation is not painful, and treatment should not be suspended for this cause. This method of administering salicylic acid is rapidly gaining favour on account of the annoying gastric complication which so often follows the ingestion of the drug or its compounds.

#### VENTILATION OF DRAINS.

The old system of ventilation of each private drain by taking a branch pipe from the sewer side of the interception trap up to and above the top of the building, is good by just so much as it returns to the former systems of natural and local ventilation, but leaving the interception trap in each private drain forms a catch bag, and often retaining the solids of the sewage that passes through them, in a short time chokes the private drain and totally disorganises the house sanitary appliances. It also spoils and destroys the ventilation of the house soil-pipes, because when there is any interception between the street sewers, and the terminating end of the soil-pipe above the roof, it prevents the warm air of the street sewers from constantly moving upwards through the vertical soil-pipe and carrying along with it any foul gases that might generate in the waste-pipes. To rely upon an upward circulation through a breather pipe placed at the foot of a house drain often fails altogether, because the current of air is sometimes changed to pass down

from the roof to the ground line in place of passing upwards, first by the sewage passing down the soil-pipes and carrying down large volumes of air with it, which is discharged at the ground line by the breather; second, then very often the breather pipe is not in working order through being choked; and third, by the variations in the temperature.—Health.

#### THE VALUE OF SPINACH.

Spinach is claimed to be the most valuable of vegetables. Its emollient and laxative nature, from the salts of potash it contains is well known. It influences the liver and brightens the complexion, while iron abounds in appreciable quantities. Bunge, the chemist, avows that spinach and the yolk of egg are simply unrivalled for their assimilable and digestive powers.

#### LIBRARY TABLE.

Contracted foot, by B. E. McKenzie, M. D., and H. P. H. Galloway, M. D.

The Arthopedic aspect of diseases of the nervous system, by Drs. McKenzie and Galloway, Toronto.

Anderson's physical education.

Course and management of cataract, by J. H. Woodward, B. S., M. D., New York.

Renal suppuration and diagnosis, by T. H. Manly, M. D., New York.

Surgical treatment of Uterine Myomata, by H. O. Marey, A. M., M. D., L. L. D., Boston.

Diarrhoea and Bacteria, by Charles D. T. Adron, M. D., Detroit.

Christian Science, by C. T. Reid, A. M., M. D., Cincinnati.

Sources of failure in treating lachrymal obstruction, by L. Conner, A. M., M. D., Detroit.