

between the mildest form of phlegmasia alba dolens and the most serious form of suppurative phlebitis is only a question of degree. The clot sometimes changes into true pus, not a fluid containing pus corpuscles. According to M. Vidal the streptococcus which produces erysipelatos dermatitis can, unassociated with other microbes, produce suppuration in phlegmonous erysipelas. The streptococcus, isolated from puerperal discharges, produces erysipelas in the same way as does the streptococcus isolated from a patch of erysipelas.

CAUTION REGARDING EXTRACT OF MALE FERN.—A Bohemian practitioner, writing in the *Allgemeine Medicinische Central Zeitung*, mentions a case where, having administered two drachms of extract of male fern in gelatine capsules, followed by castor oil, which had brought away a considerable length of worm, he was somewhat surprised to be aroused at five o'clock on the second morning to go to the patient, who had just had a violent rigor, and was at that time feverish and suffering great pain in the abdomen with diarrhoea and constant vomiting. The temperature was 103° F., and the stools presented the characteristic odor of male fern. For these symptoms ice and morphia were prescribed, by which means the sickness was brought under pretty quickly, but the intestinal catarrh required treatment for several days. The writer came to the conclusion that the explanation of the late appearance of the symptoms was due to the fact that the extract in the capsules had become inspissated, and therefore difficult of solution in the juices of the stomach. Some little time later he gave the same patient a drachm and a half of the extract in the fluid form, and succeeded in bringing away the whole of the worm without causing any disagreeable symptoms.

#### WILD-PARSNIP POISONING.

Dr. G. A. Phillips, of Ellsworth, Maine, reported observations on the effects of wild parsnip before the Maine Medical Association, June 12, 1889. Botanically and in physiological action this plant re-

sembles the water-henlock. It is the *Pastinaca sativa* of Gray.

The poison takes effect in direct ratio to the rapidity of the digestive powers in children, about two hours after the ingestion of the root. The symptoms are flushing of the face, mental dulness, followed soon by twitching of the extremities and severe convulsions, with coma, pupils widely dilated, respiration shallow, pulse weak, rapid and thready, tongue dry and swollen. Treatment was by opium and prolonged etherization, after emetics and enemas.

Death occurs in cases not promptly relieved. Strong infusion of the root injected under the skin of a cat had no other effect than to widely dilate the pupil. — *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, July.

#### VESICO-VAGINAL FISTULA.

M. Polaillon reported an operation for vesico vaginal fistula to the Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Paris, which he believes to be original with himself.

The case is that of a young woman who introduced some hair pins into the bladder. Around these foreign bodies calculi formed, which were removed by a vaginal incision. After the operation there remained a fistula of some size, situated upon the posterior wall of the urethra. Many attempts at closure were made by different surgeons, but without success. M. Polaillon undertook the cure of the fistula by the following method. He dissected across the orifice of the fistula a fold of mucous membrane from the internal portion of the anterior wall of the urethra and of the neck of the bladder and sutured it to the posterior wall of the urethra. After a month and a half or two months at the hospital she was discharged cured.

There remained behind the obliterated fistula a narrow track, owing to a suture that had cut through the tissues. The patient urinated by the meatus, and a little later by the narrow track produced by the suture, but she never had incontinence. The urine did not irritate the denuded surface. — *Archives de l'ocologie*, June, 1889.