

either a hot bath of from 99° to 104° F., or hot mustard packs. Some cases treated by the writer in this way did admirably. They were suddenly wrapped to the chin in cloths wrung out in hot water and mustard, with a blanket outside, and fed with ice water and a little brandy. This was continued for a half hour or more, the mustard sheet then withdrawn and the child left enveloped in the warm, moist blanket. The second indication is fulfilled by feeding constantly with ice or spoonfuls of ice water, or small enemata of salt water after a dejection.

**AORTIC REGURGITATION TREATED BY DIGITALIS.**—Dr. G. W. Balfour (*Edinburgh Med. Jour.*) says that in no other disease is digitalis of more value than in aortic regurgitation, and there is none other in which its curative action can be more sufficiently demonstrated than in this. The great danger in aortic incompetence is death from asystole, depending upon over distension of the left ventricle. As soon as any regurgitation takes place the interior of the left ventricle is (when the patient is in the erect posture) being constantly dilated by a force equivalent to the weight of a column of blood the height of the cranium above the heart, and of the diameter of the ventricular lumen. The hydrostatic pressure accordingly increases with the gradual dilatation of the ventricle. Now the value of digitalis consists in this—that by its judicious administration it can produce such an amount of tonic contraction of the ventricle as shall rather more than counterbalance the dilating power of the arterial column. In order that this effect may be produced, the drug requires to be given freely to cause a certain amount of contraction of the apex and diminution of the cavity of the ventricle. There is no danger of pushing the drug too far so long as the flow of urine continues free. If the quantity of urine begins to fall and the pulse commences to thump or falter, the drug should then be discontinued.

**FRESH BRAIN TISSUE—A RAPID AND SIMPLE METHOD OF PREPARING, STAINING AND MOUNTING.**—Dr. John H. Arbuckle (*Glasgow Med. Jour.*, April, 1876) gives the following method,

which, for observing the minute details of structure, is superior to all others:

The glass slide is first made perfectly clean; a small thin section of brain is made with a sharp scalpel, previously wetted with water; the section is placed on the slide. The under surface of the cover is well oiled with a drop of oil of cloves and placed over the brain substance with the oiled surface next to it. It is then pressed till the thinnest film of brain only remains between the cover and the slide. The whole is then immersed in a small saucer containing methylated spirits, which gradually finds its way between the slide and cover, and dissolves the oil of cloves. After remaining in the spirits for a few moments the slide is taken out; a few drops of spirits are put upon the slide, and the cover is at one edge gently raised, when a greater quantity of spirits gets between the cover and the slide. The cover is now lifted off, and the brain substance remains upon the slide in a thin film.

To stain this film it is first placed in spirit and after a few seconds removed, and the spirit allowed to run off. A drop of solution of aniline (g. i to 5 i) is now placed on the film. This is allowed to act for a couple of minutes, and then all the superfluous solution washed off by placing the slide in a basin of clear water. On removing the slide from the water it is placed in clear spirit or absolute alcohol to further dehydrate it.

To mount the film the slide, after fifteen minutes, is removed from the spirit; the film is cleansed by a drop of oil of cloves. When transparent all the oil is run off, the slide cleaned, and a drop of Canada balsam dissolved in benzole is put upon the brain film; then the cover is placed on it, and when allowed to dry it is permanently mounted.

The whole process need occupy but a few minutes.

**OATH OF PHARMACISTS.**—We translate from the weekly journal of *Pharmacie*, (1870, No. 50), the old French oath of pharmacists of 1336, curiositatis causa, and of illustration how much tempora mutantur: