

MEDICINE.

ON IODISM.

Discussion at the Académie de Médecine. (*L'Union Médicale* March 8th, 1860.

According to the experience of M. Ricord, the iodide of potassium is most useful and efficacious in causing the rapid disappearance of all the symptoms for which it is prescribed; and a considerable physiological operation is likewise manifested in the increase of the appetite and the improvement of the digestion. The globules of the blood are increased, the strength is restored and the weight is augmented, for M. Ricord has caused his patients to be weighed. He has also observed the disappearance, as if by enchantment, of chlorosis, syphilitic marasmus, palpitation of the heart, etc. If it should be urged that these good effects are observed only among the Parisians, M. Ricord answers, that he has treated patients from all parts of the country, from Switzerland and even from Geneva, and that he has never observed any difference in the action of the iodide. Neither has he found that age, sex, or temperament exercised any influence over the production of the symptoms described by M. Rilliet. M. Ricord, however, does not allege that the use of iodide of potassium is never attended with inconvenience; he only maintains that the assemblage of symptoms grouped under the name of *iodism* by M. Rilliet, are very rarely observed. As to the atrophy of the breasts, M. Ricord has seen the fat disappear, but never the mammary gland itself; and as to atrophy of the testicles, he has never observed it except in circumstances where it might be explained by some morbid condition, such as syphilitic sarcocele, of which atrophy of the testicle is almost the inevitable result. M. Ricord admits that iodide of potassium is not suited to all cases, and some constitutions are insusceptible of its influence. Acute or chronic inflammation of the digestive canal contraindicates the use of iodine, which is also to be avoided in scurvy, in sanguineous or serous plethora, in hæmorrhages, etc. Admitting the truth of M. Rilliet's descriptions, M. Ricord attributes in great measure to local and edemic influences, and he advises patients who require iodine as a medicine, to be treated out of Switzerland, and especially out of Geneva, where the air, the water, and the prevalence of goitre, appear to exercise an injurious influence upon the treatment, and to produce serious complications of disease. It should be mentioned that M. Ricord prescribes iodide of potassium in doses varying from one to six grammes ($\frac{1}{4}$ of a drachm to 3 iss) while M. Rilliet has observed serious constitutional effects from doses which are almost Hahnemannian, but M. Puche is said to have raised the doses to fifty-eight, or even one hundred grammes.—*Medico-chirurgical Review*.

THE PREVENTION OF PITTING IN SMALL POX.

By Dr. STOKES.

During the last five years Dr. Stokes has employed gutta percha and collodion in a considerable number of cases of confluent small pox for the purpose of preventing pitting in the face. In most of the cases the crust came off in large flakes or patches composed of the dried exudations and the covering material, leaving the skin uninjured. This kind of treatment was most successful in cases of a typhoid character, but appeared to be not so well adapted to those presenting a more sthenic type. Dr. Stokes considers that the application of poultices over the face is the surest method of preventing disfigurement in small-pox. Their use should be commenced at the earliest period, and continued to an advanced stage of the disease. In most cases they may be applied even over the nose, so as to cover the nostrils. This plan should fulfil three important indi-