

BISMUTH SALICYLATE IN THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

Dr. Ebring has employed bismuth salicylate (Merck's) in 200 cases of dyspepsia, acute and chronic gastric catarrh, gastro-intestinal catarrh, enteritis, phthisical diarrhoea, acid diarrhoea, and dysentery. He gives it, suspended in glycerine or mucilage, because of its insolubility, and because children take pills and powders badly. It is not contra-indicated in constipation. The urine soon becomes more acid, and gives a distinct salicyl reaction; the stools never give this reaction, but quickly become dark in color. He has never seen symptoms of poisoning. He is far from seeing in the remedy a panacea for all cases, but says that when combined with a suitable diet it is most useful and worthy of trial. Its action on the urine suggests that its employment in cystitis may be advantageous.—*London Medical Recorder*, February 20, 1889.

PHENIC ACID IN THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

Dr. Bertolus (*Thèse de Lyon*, August, 1888,) gives the results of his observations on the therapeutic action of phenic acid in skin diseases, in the following *résumé*.

1st. Taken internally, phenic acid is an excellent remedy for the prurigo of Hebra. Not only does it diminish the pruritus, but acts also upon the papules.

2nd. It modifies the exudative eczemas, and those resembling lichen.

3rd. It seems to act directly upon the nerve extremities.

It is useless to allow the daily dose to reach above five to eight grains in the young, and between seven to thirteen grains in the adult, as larger doses will not produce any greater benefit, if, in fact, they do not do harm. Small doses can be continued for weeks or months with good results.—*Revue de Thérapeutique*, December 1, 1888.

THE REMOVAL OF CERUMEN AND THE PREVENTION OF CONSEQUENT FURUNCLES.

Lowenberg ("Praticien"; "Gaz. hebdomadaire des sciences médicales") thinks that, in view of the liability to the formation of a furuncle after the removal of a plug of cerumen from the ear by simple syringing, the mass should be treated previously for a day or two by instillations of an antiseptic solution made after the following formula:

Boric acid.	7 parts;
Glycerin,	} each 100 "
Distilled water	

The solution should be warmed and dropped

in from a test-tube. It is to be applied twice a day, the liquid being allowed to remain in the ear for fifteen minutes. The patient should be informed that this may increase his deafness for the time being, on account of an augmentation of the plug by imbibition, but it softens the mass and facilitates its expulsion.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*

SALICYLATE OF MERCURY IN THE TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS.

Dr. Silva Arango, at a recent meeting of the General Polyclinical Society of Rio de Janeiro, read a paper on the therapeutic uses of salicylate of mercury, for which he claimed the following advantages:

1. It is easily supported by the stomach; it does not produce gastralgia, colic, or diarrhoea, symptoms which are so frequently the outcome of the administration of other mercurial preparations, including the proto-iodide and tannate of mercury, which lately have been used very extensively.

2. Salicylate of mercury never produced mercurial stomatitis.

3. Taken internally it acts with greater promptness than any other mercurial preparation heretofore used.

Hearing of Dr. Arango's statement, Dr. Carl Szadek, of Kiev, administered this remedy to twenty-five syphilitics, and from the results he obtained confirms the statement of Dr. Arango.—*L'Abeille Médicale*, January 31, 1889.

EASY METHOD OF PRODUCING LARGE ANATOMICAL DIAGRAMS.

Mr. W. T. Thomas, in a letter to the *Lancet*, says that he has found thin sheets of mica coated with a varnish of one ounce of dried Canada balsam to two ounces of benzole to answer admirably. His mode of procedure is described as follows: Having coated the mica with varnish, lay it on the picture or engraving to be enlarged, trace the outlines on the varnished surface with a fine drawing pen and liquid Indian ink. Place this as the slide in an ordinary magic lantern (oil lamp gives ample luminosity)—I use an Argand reading light in the lantern) and the picture is enlarged to any size according to the distance of the lantern from the screen. I find it is better to use the wall as the screen where the paper or calico is hung, and it is an easy process to run over the outline on the material with a soft crayon. The tracing, fitting up, and drawing occupy on an average a quarter of an hour. Enlarging on a blackboard so that the lecturer may fill in is easily done by this method, the room being slightly darkened, absolute darkness not being necessary, as only black lines are required, and no fine features or tracery.