

Tinct. of iron meets several of the indications, independent of its constitutional effects. It is an astringent, an antiseptic, and combined with quinine, a most potent stomachic tonic. By its administration, it is almost directly applied to the locality in which the disease is seated, and benefits the diarrhea, checks the tendency to hemorrhage, acts antiseptically on the contents of the bowels, and possibly on the ulcers, and, we have, found agrees with the stomach as well as most other remedies. We are aware that some recent authorities dispute the correctness of some of the views hitherto entertained in reference to the therapeutic qualities of iron, its mode of action, and effects. Yet we hold that its evident utility in many diseases where the blood is impoverished or morbidly altered, cannot be successfully disputed. Experience has taught us that it is eminently useful in enteric fever. We have employed it for over ten years, in addition to the usual approved remedies, and have made it the central remedial agent in this disease, around which other subordinate remedies were prescribed, as circumstances seemed to indicate. If permitted to found an opinion on the results attained, we can truthfully assert that it is actively serviceable. We admit it is possible that the very satisfactory results may not have been attributable to the iron; but this is not probable. We know that we have been more successful in the treatment of typhoid since we began its use than before. During the past year we have treated no inconsiderable number of cases, without a single death. That it is destructive to, or prevents the multiplication of typhoid bacilli, we know not, nor are we in any sense assured as to what its manner of action is, but we believe firmly in its value in this disease. Of course we do not advocate its exclusive use in any case, but as it does not in any way interfere with the usual approved treatment, and can be administered without risk, we bespeak for it a trial at the hands of the profession, that further experience may either establish its value in typhoid, or prove its worthlessness, and relegate it to the extensive list of useless remedial agents for that disease.

There are fifteen thousand nurses in Great Britain. Mr. Henry C. Burnett is now advocating the establishment of a national pension fund for them and for hospital officials.

CHIAN TURPENTINE IN THE TREATMENT OF UTERINE CANCER.

The question of the curability of this scourge by the use of Chian turpentine is still causing some debate. Mr. Clay, of Birmingham, was the first to speak well of the treatment. From time to time cases of cures have been published in the various medical journals. Mr. Clay, as late as 1881, wrote to the *Lancet* as follows:—

"An enlarged experience, however, has confirmed the statements made in my original paper, and I have now the satisfaction of being able to declare that I have nothing to withdraw or to qualify as regards the statements I then made as the result of observation as to the effects of Chian turpentine in uterine cancer."

Unfortunately the number of failures has been so far in excess of successes for this remedy, that few in the profession, in this country at any rate, have any faith in its power to check the morbid growth. We do not know that it has ever been sufficiently tried here to decide *pro* or *con* as to its value. In one case which came under our notice, the patient, who was the daughter of a medical man, was, or thought she was greatly relieved by its use, but she eventually died of the disease.

The truth as to the value or worthlessness of the remedy is of such vast importance that it would be well if more light could be thrown on the subject. Mr. Elder, of Nottingham, makes an appeal (*Lancet*, Dec. 3) to the profession as follows:—

"From time to time he (Mr. Clay) has favored his professional brethren with repeated cures of cancer by this remedy, and even so recently as in your last week's issue three more examples are given. But what about the failures? In the interest of the public at large, such claims as Mr. Clay makes for Chian turpentine ought not to pass unchallenged by those who differ from him. Unfortunately, examples of cancerous disease are only too common upon whom this remedy (supplied, if necessary, by his own chemist) might be tested by a tribunal in whom the profession at large would have confidence, and the doubt once and for all resolved. If this drug came out of the ordeal triumphantly, then I feel sure there would not be a single dissentient to Mr. Clay occupying a position not inferior to Jenner or Harvey, as one of the greatest benefactors of our species; but if, on the contrary, it is wholly useless as a remedy, then let it drop into a well-merited, and not too premature oblivion."

The suggestion as to where the drug is to be