

five drachms of this extract in the space of five hours to a woman who would infallibly have succumbed to a most terrible attack of metrorrhagia, if it had not been for this auxiliary, which in two days afterward was completely suppressed, and the woman finally recovered. After this, many celebrated doctors have endeavored to extend the use of this remedy, and to this end Dr. Arne, of the Paris Asylums, has used it with happy effect in some chronic affections of the uterus. Dr. Sacchero and Teissier, professors of medicine in the University of Turin, Dr. Mosea, and some other practitioners connected with hospitals of the same capital, have used it with happy success in chronic and acute pain, from which we conclude that Ergotine has direct action on the mucous surfaces, when found in a state of super-excitation or active hypercæmia; it is also useful in dry and obstinate coughs with or without spitting of blood, which so often accompanies consumption. Dose from 20 gr. to 1 oz., according to circumstances; given in pills or solution.

*Mode of Preparing Ergotine.*—Powdered Ergot one pound, and as much water as it will absorb (cold water), and allow it to stand for 12 hours; then place in a porcelain or glass percolator, and pour over it successive portions of cold water, until the menstruum passes through the mass colorless; the liquid thus obtained is to be evaporated by means of a water bath, unto the consistence of an extract. This extract is the Ergotine of Bonjean.—*Phil. Med. and Surg. Jour.*

### GERMAN.

*New mode of treating Dropsies.*—A very important method of treating dropsies has been submitted to the profession by Dr. Serre of Alais. This consists (1) in withholding all sorts of drinks excepting, (2) thrice daily *milk soup*;\* immediately after, (3) *an onion*. Whatever the cause of the dropsy may be; whether scarlet fever, Bright's disease, disturbance of the circulation, and so on, the result is ever equally astonishing. At the end of eight days, there is a marked improvement on the general symptoms; in 14 days a rich secretion of urine, and in 30 complete recovery. Within the last five years Dr. Serre has cured upwards of 60 cases by this method, among whom were many, who had been afflicted with the disease for a long period, in spite of every means used for their relief. It had, indeed, been hitherto employed in certain solitary instances, but until recently, quite empirically, and as it were, by chance. Three indications seem to be fulfilled by its use, (1) to draw towards the urine secreting organs, material from without; (2) to rouse them to activity, and (3) to bring increased nourishment to the body.—*Medicinishe Neuigkeiten for June.*

*Radical cure of Hydrocele.*—In the University Clinique in Berlin, Professor Langenbeck has lately used an injection of chloroform, instead of iodine in this affection. As yet the hydrocele have not been reproduced. One to two drachms is the quantity he uses—the pain is less severe than what attends iodine injections, and, in Langenbeck's opinion, incomparably superior.—*Erlangen Wochenschrift.*

\* German milk soup is made by grating finely white bread, adding q. s. of pepper and salt, and afterwards boiled milk—letting it stand till cool.—(Translator.)