

That clerical and lay functions were once conjoined, the following old-time advertisement will sufficiently show: "Wanted, for a family who have had bad health, a sober, steady person in the capacity of doctor, surgeon, apothecary and man-midwife. He must occasionally act as butler, and dress hair and wigs. He will be required sometimes to read prayers, and to preach a sermon every Sunday. A good salary will be given."—*Medical Times*.

SENNA-COFFEE.

It may not be generally known that the disagreeable taste of infusion of senna may be completely removed by the addition of coffee in its preparation.

For a full dose, take a teacupful (say 1 oz.) of senna leaves, a heaped teaspoonful (say 2 drachms) of freshly parched and ground coffee, and boiling water a sufficient quantity to make a teacupful (say four fluid ounces) of infusion—steep till of sufficient strength.

To the infusion prepared, add milk and sugar to taste. The drink will be quite acceptable to adults, and not disagreeable to children.

APPLICATION FOR CHILBLAINS.

Two parts oxide zinc; one part tannic acid; ten parts glycerine; eight parts balsam Peru; four parts camphor; to be applied night and morning.—(*Union Med.*, Oct. 15.)

POMADE IN LOSS OF HAIR.

M. Bouchut recommends the following, to be rubbed in night and morning, when the hair falls off after delivery or serious illness, giving at the same time, internally, iron and quinine, and in some cases the arseniate of soda: Ten parts extract henbane; five parts tincture of iodine; thirty parts beef marrow; scenting with bergamot.—(*Id.*)

OINTMENT FOR PILES.

M. F. Guym, of the Necker Hospital, Paris, prescribes, in painful hæmorrhoids, an ointment compounded of one part extract belladonna, two parts extract rhatany, and fifteen parts lard.—(*The Doctor.*)

NIGHT SWEATS.

Sidney Ringer announces that belladonna has a decided effect in checking anomalous cases of habitual sweating; and a number of other observers have found atropia, in 1-60 grain doses two or three times a day, to exercise some control over the profuse sweats of advanced phthisis, when other remedies had failed.

ATROPIA IN NIGHT SWEATS.

Dr. J. C. Wilson, in the *Philadelphia Medical Times*, calls attention to the efficacy of atropia in arresting the night sweats of phthisis, in doses of one-sixtieth of a grain once or twice a day. It was promptly successful after the failure of sulphuric

acid, tannic acid, oxyd of zinc, and other remedies. Dr. Sidney Ringer also furnishes similar testimony in the *Practitioner*, he having injected it in the skin in doses of the hundredth part of a grain. Dryness of the fauces and dilatation of the pupils result from a continuance of the treatment.

ON A MEANS OF INTENSIFYING CARDIAC MURMURS.

At a meeting of the Clinical Society of London, held on December 13, Dr. Vivian Poore explained a simple means of intensifying cardiac murmurs, which is likely to prove useful at the schools as an aid to clinical teaching. He illustrated the scheme by making his patient lie down upon a common mahogany table, placing a walking-stick vertically on the centre of his chest about the level of the third costal cartilage, and balancing upon the top of the stick the sounding board of a guitar with the orifice downwards. His patient was the subject of an aortic diastolic bruit, and the arrangements made caused the murmurs to be distinctly audible to the members standing around at a distance of several feet from the patient.

TESTING OF URINE FOR BILIARY ACIDS.

M. Straburg (*Repertoire de Pharmacie*) uses the following method, which seems elegant, safe, and easy: 1. a bit of sugar is dissolved in the urine. 2. A bit of filtering paper is dipped in the urine and dried. 3. When the paper is dry, one or two drops of sulphuric acid are put upon the paper. If the urine contains biliary acids, the paper assumes a bright violet color on being examined with a strong light.—*The Lancet*.

TINCTURE OF CHLORIDE OF IRON FOR CORNS.

Dr. C. Barber states (*Lyon Médicale*) that he has cured three cases of corns on the toes by the application of a drop of the tincture of chloride of iron applied on the corns night and morning. This application was continued for fifteen days in one case, when the corns from which the patient had suffered for thirty or forty years were entirely destroyed, and pressure on the part gave not the least uneasiness.

INSTANT ARREST OF EPISTAXIS.

Dr. Marin, of Geneva, states, in the *Jour. de Med. et de Chirurg. Pratique*, May, 1872, that, as the bleeding in epistaxis generally flows from only one nostril, and most frequently from the anterior third of one of the nasal fossæ, he was led to believe, that by compressing the corresponding facial artery on the superior maxillary bone, near the ala of the nose, the afflux of blood would be diminished, and the hæmorrhage at once be arrested. He has tried this plan in very many serious hæmorrhages from the nose, and the expedient has proved perfectly and promptly successful.—(*L'Union Médicale*, 25th May, 1872.)