

and other forms of headache, he has come to regard it as an almost infallible cure, even in the most obstinate cases. It is useful whether given in the premonitory stage or after the headache has fully developed, and it is seldom that more than one dose is required. The dose is 1.1 gr., to be taken dissolved in water. This quantity contains only 0.09 gr., of caffeine or one-sixth of the maximal dose of this substance. It is recommended that the patient rest a while after taking the drug, especially in cases of severe migraine.—*Ex.*

TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE NAILS.—Dr. John V. Shoemaker (*New England Medical Monthly*, Feb. 1894) goes very fully into this topic. In his able hands the question becomes quite interesting. He speaks highly of the good effects of sulphur in five-grain doses three times a day in cases where the nutrition of the nail is not normal. In such cases he regards this drug as almost a specific.

There are cases where the disease affecting the growth of the nail is of tubercular origin. In these cases such as onychia maligna, give cod liver oil, hypophosphites, and attend well to the general health.

Nails sometimes are diseased, because the person has syphilis. Specific treatment here is called for, with the alternatives, like syrup of iodide of iron, cod liver oil and tonics, and an ointment of mercury oleate.

Nails sometimes are affected with tinea. An ointment of the oleate of copper or tin, 10 or 20 per cent, is very useful.

ACUTE RHINITIS, OR ACUTE NASAL CATARRH.—At this season of the year when many are subjected to the sudden changes of temperature, and there is a certain amount of acute nasal irritation to the mucous membrane in the cool winds of spring, rhinitis appears in those who are predisposed to such inflammatory conditions.

"How shall I ward off a cold?" is asked of every physician more or less frequently during the springtime, and invariably we are often in a dilemma for the correct answer.

The causes of sudden "colds" do not always lie in the condition of health an individual may be in. In fact, many outside conditions are to be taken into account when summing up the etiology of acute rhinitis; for instance, a crowded steam or street car will sometimes be a factor in causing nasal

catarrh in one person, as a sudden change in temperature, or exposing the body to damp and wet, will be the causative factor to another.

Again, the attack of rhinitis, once inaugurated, may easily be augmented and prolonged by too irritating applications to the mucous membrane of the nasal cavity.

The different modes of treatment of this affection are legion. While one applies local medications another tries systemic. One will insufflate and another purge or sweat; neither, perhaps, doing any evident good in shortening the attack or mitigating its severity.

The main point in the treatment of this affection is to keep the mucus membrane clean and free from pus and detritus with as mild an application as possible. This can be done with a little peroxide of hydrogen diluted with 50 per cent water, and afterwards applying a snuff of borate of soda and carbonate of bismuth with a small amount of hydrochlorate of cocaine incorporated.

Other excellent washes for the nasal mucous membrane are borate of soda in camphor water, ten grains to the ounce, or a tablet of the Dr. Seller formula.

Water alone is a trifle irritating to some nasal mucous membranes, and must contain a slightly alkaline substance in solution.

Often, in spite of treatment, the diseased condition runs its course of a week or ten days without material shortening of the period.—*Med. Times and Register.*

PROFESSOR BILLROTH AS AN OPERATOR.—The general public not unnaturally assume that a great surgeon is necessarily a most skilful operator, a mistake not infrequently made by the profession also. Ingenuity, however, and boldness in devising operations are very different attributes from the manipulative skill, decision, and tact required to carry them out. Professor Billroth united the two sets of qualities in a very conspicuous manner. Yet it was always the guiding intellect rather than the manual dexterity which impressed itself on the spectator. Truth to say in the actual performance of an important operation Billroth showed no very marked superiority over his fellow surgeons. He avoided any show of brilliancy or flourish, went steadily to work, erred, if at all, on the side of