

ever, with justice, condemns the conclusions of those who, from comparative experiments on the nutritive value of fresh meat and meat extract taken *per se*, argue that the latter is not only useless for the purposes of nutrition, but positively injurious. It should be clearly understood that beef tea and extract of meat are only to be regarded in the light of auxiliaries to food, rather than independent articles of nutriment.—*London Medical Record*, April 16, 1873.

#### ON THE TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA BY THE VAPOR OF IODINE.

Dr. John O'Neill (*Australian Medical Journal*, March, 1873) says the unsatisfactory results of the local treatment of diphtheria have induced him to look a field for some new agent of greater value than those at present in use. He has been led to reject sulphurous acid, whether applied in solution or as vapor from burning sulphur. Iodine in the volatile state has yielded far more satisfactory results. In the form of tincture iodine has been already long since employed both internally and topically in diphtheria. The author volatilizes 20 to 30 grains of pure iodine by means of a heated shovel placed some little distance from the patient in order to avoid the direct action of the fumes. The fumes are inhaled and gain easy access to the larynx and trachea. Children seem especially tolerant of the iodine vapor. A milder effect is produced by allowing the iodine to evaporate slowly from flat shallow dishes. This may be repeated during the day, the object being to keep the air of the room sensibly charged with fumes. The histories of two severe cases are appended. In the one all the ordinary methods had failed: there had been hemorrhage from the throat, the effusion was extensive, and the patient refused food, and lay in a semi-comatose state. Three fumigations of thirty grs. each were employed daily for three days. On the fourth the exudation began rapidly to clear off. The other case is similar, but in it the membranes seem also to have involved the larynx and trachea.—*London Medical Record*.

#### GLYCERIN AS A MEANS OF DISGUIISING MEDICINES.

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the use of glycerin as a means of disguising medicines, especially those of an oily nature. Some time since it was announced that if castor oil be mixed with an equal part of glycerin and one or two drops of oil of cinnamon to the dose, it can scarcely be recognized. We have used this mixture a good number of times, and can confirm all that has been said of it. Children take it out of the spoon without difficulty. We have given it to doctors without their discovering that they were taking castor oil.

In typhoid fever and other diseases in which turpentine is indicated, patients often object very much to its taste. The addition of half an ounce of glycerin to a six ounce emulsion disguises almost

completely the turpentine, especially if a drop of oil of gaultheria or of other volatile oil be added for each dose.

No doubt the principle is capable of wide extension. It is said that cod-liver oil may be disguised with glycerin and whisky; and Dr. Herbert L. Snow writes to the *British Medical Journal* that an addition of a small quantity of glycerin (about half an ounce to an eight-ounce mixture) will altogether obviate the sensation of astringency produced by the chloride of iron dissolved in syrup.

#### A CURE FOR EPITHELIAL CANCER.

BY GEO. G. BREWER, M.D.

Whatever tends to increase our capability of coping with a formidable disease cannot be uninteresting to the medical profession. Although cancer is a common disease, and one with which the surgeon and pathologist is familiar, it is a lamentable fact that it often baffles all treatment. I have always thought that the surgeon's knife was the proper and only treatment for cancer of every description. But my experience in treating an epithelial cancer lately has greatly changed my opinion. The subject of the case was a gentleman fifty years of age, stout and healthy. An epithelial cancer about the size of a hickory-nut located on the cheek near the ear. He consulted other medical gentlemen, who confirmed my opinion and advised him to have it removed. At his request, I removed it with the knife. Part of the wound healed in a few days, but the upper portion soon sprouted out with the cancerous disease. I then applied caustic potassa, not only to it, but to a considerable margin around it. In about ten days after the sloughing was over, I found that the entire margin had taken on the cancerous disease, and my patient was in a worse condition than before the operation. At my request, he consulted several surgeons, who objected to operating any more, for fear of enlarging the cancer, and advised a soothing treatment,—poultices of bread and milk. This was followed without benefit for six months, when a friend gave him a recipe which I did not object to his using:

Chlor. zinci, gr. viij;

Bloodroot, gr. v;

Starch, gr. viij.

Make into a paste with honey.

The cancer was at this time nearly as large as a hen's egg. After applying the paste for two weeks, he called to see me. I found it had diminished to half its former size. I advised him by all means to continue it. After a month's use of the remedy, the cancer was not larger than a dime. He continued to use it until the disease was cured. There is at this time nothing but a cicatrix, where before was a large epithelial cancer. I report this case for the purpose of calling the attention of the profession to this remedy in epithelial cancer, and do recommend those who have such cases to treat to give it a trial.—*Medical Times*.