

TRIONAL IN WHOOPING-COUGH. —Dr. Busdraghi says that trional is much superior to belladonna in the treatment of pertussis. In doses of from 1½ to eight grains—according to the age of the child—it produces a quiet and deep sleep, only occasionally interrupted by a fit of coughing. In conjunction with the trional, he paints the pharynx with a 1 per cent. solution of carbolic acid (containing also a small amount of glycerin and alcohol).—*Am. Medico-Surgical Bulletin*.

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MINERAL CONSTITUENTS OF THE TUBERCLE BACILLUS.—By Drs. Schweinitz and Dorset (*Centbl. f. Bakt.*). The authors add to their previous studies, which showed that tubercle bacilli contained from 2 to 4 per cent. of ash, some chemical analyses of this ash. The results show that the ash of these bacilli contains a very large amount of phosphoric acid, 55 per cent. Compared with other bacilli, of which not so very many have been examined, the phosphorus content of Koch's bacillus is extremely high. The practical suggestion to be drawn is, that tuberculosis rapidly exhausts the phosphorus from the medium upon which it is grown and it seems reasonable to suppose that the administration of phosphoric acid in phthisis is a rational therapeutic measure.—*Post-Graduate*.

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ALTERATIONS OF TASTE AND SMELL IN TABES.—Klippel has made a study of the various alterations in the senses of smell and taste as they occur in tabes dorsalis (*Arch. de Neurologie*, 1898, and *Journ. de Méd.*, April 10th, 1898). Contrary to the general idea that these symptoms are rare, the author finds that they are of common occurrence in cases of this disease, and may manifest themselves at a very early date; in regard to this they correspond to the other sensory symptoms, such as numbness, paræsthesia, and pains. At the same time the author has noticed the late occurrence of these symptoms in several cases. In these circumstances anosmia agustia are observed, and as by this time the patient has, as a rule, many other symptoms to absorb his attention, complete loss of smell may go unnoticed. Both these symptoms may appear suddenly and in association with bulbar symptoms. In other instances smell and taste merely show perversion and in an intermittent form, thus resembling crises. There may be for a day or so at a time peculiar earthy, metallic, or bitter taste sensations appearing independently of meals, and lasting for about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour. In the same manner patients may complain of sour smells and odors of stale fish, vomited matter, etc.—*British Medical Journal*.