

microorganisms are decolorized, and a clear, beautiful picture remains.

The bacilli are not injured or altered in form by this method as in those in which strong acids, etc., are used. The method is not recommended for sections of tissues, because of the swelling and coagulation which the boiling water causes. The simplicity of the method certainly recommends it to the practitioner.

DIGITALIS IN PNEUMONIA.—Strzover, (*Meditzinshe Obzrenie*), reports concerning the abortive treatment of croupous pneumonia by large doses of digitalis.

The preparation used was the infusion of digitalin leaves 2 vel 4:200, simple syrup 30, a teaspoonful to be given every half hour, the whole to be taken in twenty-four hours.

In the writer's nine consecutive cases under this treatment, temperature fell on the day following the beginning of the treatment from 40 to 38° C., and the subjective phenomena markedly improved, the patient feeling practically well.

In the incipient stages the lungs became free from abnormal signs in a day or two, while in more advanced cases complete resolution was brought about on the seventh day. In none of the cases were there any toxic manifestations.

DIPHThERIA AND ITS RELATIONSHIP.—As a curiosity of the current literature, the following extract is made from an article by Leibig, in the (*N. Y. Med. Rec.*) "The organism, diphtheritic, reaches the human economy by means of uncooked food, perhaps also in water, in the form of a small, insignificant larva, and here begins the progeneration in the production of ova. Diphtheria is caused by a living organism. This may be either winged or unfledged—infectooriginalis. The constituents of true diphtheria consist in spirals, ova, granules, episperm. The so-called membranes * * are chemically and physiologically identical with the factors originally deposited in the intestines, and are partially their products of separation."

MILK DIET IN NEPHRITIS.—From a comparative study of the utility of the milk-diet in the various forms of nephritis, Ralfe, *Lancet*, concludes that the best results are obtained in cases of acute or subacute nephritis in which the diuretic action of the lactose of the milk increases the flow of urine and relieves the dropsy; whilst in cases in which

degenerative changes have taken place and the heart is already failing, it is better to give a more solid and more stimulating food than milk, which shall at the same time be easily assimilable and not highly nitrogenous.

SALOL IN THE STOMACH AND INTESTINE.—Dr. Paul Cornet (*Le Prog. Med.*), says as the result of experiment with the above drug: (1) Salol is at first decomposed in the intestine. (2) Salicylic acid is found in the stomach two or three hours after the ingestion of thirty to forty-five grains. (3) Salol is not completely decomposed in the intestine, for some is detected in the feces.

Books and Pamphlets.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF DISEASES OF THE SKIN. By P. H. Pye-Smith, M.D., F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and Surgeon to Guy's Hospital. Philadelphia: Lea Bros. & Co. 1893. Toronto, Carveth & Co.

This handbook is a reprint of the author's chapters on diseases of the skin, written in 1886, to complete the unfinished work on 'medicine by the late Hilton Fagge. There are some additions made to these well known chapters, which were revised in 1888 and 1889. The author in the present volume has made extensive use of reports of dermatological cases at Guy's, and from the pathological and clinical transactions. The appendix, being new, and formula will be welcomed by all, especially by the general practitioner. The author is so well known that comment on the subject matter is unnecessary. He has added some diagrammatic wood-cuts to demonstrate the local distribution of diseases of the skin. They are a new feature and will be found very useful. Altogether the work is an excellent one, and we think our readers will be well repaid by the reading of it.

ACCIDENTS AND EMERGENCIES; a Manual of the Treatment of Surgical and Medical Emergencies in the absence of a Physician. By Chas. W. Dullis, M.D., F.C.P., Phila., Physician to the Rush Hospital, etc. Fourth edition, thoroughly revised and enlarged, with new illustrations, Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co. Toronto: Carveth & Co., 1892.

A capital little book, not only in the absence of a physician, but in his presence. It contains a great many points which nearly every physician and surgeon may read with interest and profit.