

of coffee upon various microbes. He found that the organisms all died in a longer or shorter period—*e.g.*, in one series of experiments anthrax bacilli were destroyed in three hours, anthrax spores in four weeks, cholera bacilli in four hours, and the streptococcus of erysipelas in one day. It was, however, remarkable that good coffee and bad coffee produced precisely similar effects. He believes that as previous observers have suggested, the antiseptic effect of coffee does not depend on the caffeine it contains, but on the empyreumatic oils developed by roasting.

HYPNOTISM.—Take an easy position, sitting or half reclining, and breathe deeply and evenly, and at the same time rapidly as possible; in about one minute there will be induced a state of insensibility to pain without loss of mental consciousness. Again, take an easy sitting position and steadfastly gaze at a small shining object, as for instance the bulb of a thermometer placed about two feet from the eyes and a little above range, requiring a convergent squint to fix the sight upon it. In five minutes or less, the pupils will dilate, eyelids tremble, and then sleep will ensue with insensibility to pain: an operation may be performed or labor progress without consciousness. In order to awaken the patient, blow your breath on the eyelids, or rub them with your thumbs, or apply hartshorn to the nose.

AN INHALER.—Coil a piece of paper into the shape of a cigarette, and fix it with gum. Then insert into one end a small uncompressed piece of absorbent cotton-wool, upon which a drop or two of the desired medicament has been poured. Air is now drawn through the tube by the patient, who holds the other end between his lips. This plan is by many patients, especially by men, preferred to the use of any form of respirator, or to inhalations mingled with steam. These last, moreover, have a relaxing effect in some atonic conditions of the throat. Such remedies as compound tincture of benzoin, methyl, oil of eucalyptus, etc., may be used with this device. Oil of peppermint was found to give great satis-

faction, inhaled in this manner, in case of pulmonary consumption.—*Trained Nurse.*

QUININE IN LABOR.—Dr. Stock, in *Med. Register*, read an article before his County Medical Society on this subject. He strongly urges the use of quinine as a substitute for ergot and other remedies in cases of simple uterine inertia. He gives this drug in fifteen-grain doses, and prefers it to other remedies, as it not only increases the force of the uterine contractions, but stimulates the patient so that she is capable of renewed and greater exertion in assisting in the propulsion of the child. In primiparæ he considers it good practice to give a dose of quinine early in labor, as by this means the process is materially shortened without endangering the mother or child. He believes that quinine has not so marked an action as ergot upon the circular fibers of the uterus, and hence may be given in rigid os, while the latter would be contraindicated as the increased contraction of the circular fibers in the cervix would offer a further resistance to the passage of the child.

SYPHILITIC CHANCERE OF THE LIP.—Dr. Vidal lately had, in his ward in the St. Louis Hospital, a patient presenting a syphilitic chancre of the lip of an unusual origin. The patient was a young girl of twenty-one years, who for the last three months, presented superficial lesions of the lips, particularly of the lower lip. These were taken to be eczematous. But on her admission into the hospital these became modified and presented an ulceration bearing the characteristics of a true chancre. This case was interesting, not only on account of the difficulty of the diagnosis, but on account of the conditions in which inoculation was effected. This young girl was working in a manufactory at the same time with a young man who had sore lips, and both had to use the same speaking tube. It was by placing his sore lips on the mouth piece of the tube that the patient got her chancre. If this be true, this mode of contagion deserves to be brought to notice.—*Paris Letter in American Practitioner and News.*