

## RICORD'S COUGH PILLS.

Morphiæ hydrochloratis.....	gr. v;
Extracti hyoscyami .....	gr. viij;
Rad. belladonnæ pulv .....	} aa gr. xlv;
Rad. glycyrrhizæ pulv .....	
Mellis .....	
Balsami tolutani.....	gr. lxxv;
Ol. theobromæ.....	gr. lxxv.

Make into one hundred pills. Each contains one-twentieth of a grain of hydrochlorate (muriate) of morphia.

Dose—One pill every five or six hours, in chronic bronchitis accompanied with cough.—*New Remedies*.

## THE ELECTRICITY OF THE HUMAN BODY.

It has been long known from positive and conclusive facts that the human body is charged with electricity in the high altitudes and excessively dry atmosphere of the plateaux of the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains. But it is not so generally known that the accumulation of this electricity may cause very great danger to persons carrying explosive substances.

Two grave and distressing accidents occurred a few months ago at the entrance of the Sutro tunnel, both occasioned by the sudden explosion, in an incomprehensible manner, of a quantity of priming powder in percussion cases.

In the first instance, Mr. Henry L. Foreman, a man of high culture, a former attaché of the telegraphic service at Washington, was examining the cases when 200 of them exploded, blinding and dangerously wounding the unfortunate man. The cases were large copper priming capsules for cannon, each an inch long, charged with fulminate of mercury.

The second accident occurred only a few weeks ago and almost under the same circumstances, at the same place, whereby Thomas Coombs lost his hand and a part of his left arm. He was engaged in packing away ten of these cases, when all at once, and without apparent cause, they all exploded, mutilating their victim so cruelly as to render necessary immediate amputation.

These accidents led M. Sutro to undertake a series of experiments with a view of determining seriously the cause of the inexplicable explosions. This investigation has led him to believe that they were due to electricity disengaged from the human body, and it was to confirm this idea that he commenced his experiments.

The experiments were made as follows: Having insulated a package of cases upon a piece of carpet, he connected with them metal wires of length sufficient to remove the operator from all danger. He now walked up and down the chamber a few minutes and then held a knuckle to the end of the wire, whereupon an explosion followed at once.

This experiment was repeated a number of times with different explosive apparatus, such as those employed by the San Francisco Company, and those of the Electrical Construction Company, and always

with the same results. They go to prove that explosive machines may be discharged by the electricity accumulated in the human body.

Instructions were therefore given to the entire *personnel* of the tunnel. All the men were furnished with boots which were conductors of electricity, and were ordered to wet the boots before entering the tunnel where the explosive material was placed. By taking thus this simple but highly scientific precaution a repetition was prevented of the accidents which rendered Messrs. Foreman and Coombs victims for life.—*La France Medicale*, June 13, 1877.

## IN ANAL FISSURE.

Trousseau recommended both the tincture and extract of rhatanny in fissure of the anus, a drachm of each in five ounces of water, by enema. In prescribing the remedies glycerin will be found a convenient excipient; as

R. Tinct. kramerizæ .....	℥j;
Ext. kramerizæ.....	℥j;
Glycerinæ .....	℥iij. M.

S. A tablespoonful in a tumblerful of water by injection.

## HYDROBROMIC ACID.

Edward Woakes, M.D., Surgeon to the Throat Hospital, London, writes to the *British Medical Journal*: This drug having established its claim to antagonize the ear symptoms occasioned by large doses of quinine, there appears to be but one step between this fact and the inference that it should be equally efficacious in analogous states of the ear arising from other causes. Viewing certain forms of tinnitus as possessing marked analogy to the condition induced by quinine—one, that is, of congested labyrinthine circulation—I have prescribed certain remedies with a view to the relief of this most distressing symptom; among these codeia, with some advantage, but not in any degree comparable to the results attending the hydrobromic acid. It may be needless to remark that the cases should be selected with a view to their appositeness to the presumed physiological action of the drug; and the indication which should be regarded as most distinctly pointing in this direction is that the noises have more or less of a pulsating, or, as the patient will describe it, a "knocking" character. The existence of vertigo, if present, will rather confirm the indication for the exhibition of the acid. The subjoined cases are intended to illustrate these remarks, and are taken from a number of others under recent observation.

F. C., aged twenty-four, was the subject of otorrhœa media, associated with tinnitus of a very distressing character. This latter symptom persisted long after the others had yielded to treatment. The patient, a fairly intelligent mechanic, described the noises as increased on lying down, when they became "like the knocking of his heart." He was ordered fifteen minims of hydrobromic acid in water every