

tact with any part but the rubber. It also makes the physical exploration of the 'fair sex,' whether for thoracic or abdominal affections, a far less delicate procedure. An ordinary elastic band, half an inch wide by two inches in length, will just fit the larger chest-piece of Camman's stethoscope. It is made to stick on by the aid of a little gum arabic, tragacanth, or flour-paste, so as to lap over the inner margin of the rim, almost as much as the outer one. The elasticity of the rubber makes it fit snugly, and modifies the vibrations as they are conveyed to the rigid tubing from the chest. It is in reality of just about the same density as the cartilages of the human ear, thus simulating the normal ear-sounds, and doing away with that exaggerated intensity and tubular quality, which obtains in all the (rigid) tubular stethoscopes, and which misleads most who are not experts.

A NEW THEORY OF CHLOROSIS.

M. Louton, (in *Le Progrès Médical*) after indicating various theories put forward on the nature of chlorosis (nervous disorder, menstrual perturbation, dyspepsia, &c.), observes that that which is best established in the history of chlorosis is that it is anemia, and that decrease in the number of the red corpuscles is the true anatomical cause of this malady. Chlorosis has all the characteristic signs of hæmorrhagic anemia, although, in the case of menorrhagic chlorosis, this malady is accompanied oftener with amenorrhœa or dysmenorrhœa.

The author asks if there might not be some part of the body in which a continuous and latent loss of blood would lead to all the symptoms of chlorosis. According to him, the gastric mucous membrane would seem to be the most habitual seat of this blood-leakage. From this he draws a parallel between chlorosis and simple ulcer of the stomach.

1. Chlorosis and certain forms of ulcer in the stomach (the hæmorrhagic erosion) are peculiar to women. 2. Disorders of menstruation are common in both cases; in fact, Brinton indicates the suppression of the menses as a cause of simple ulcer in girls at the age of puberty. This variety of ulcer has even received the name of the menstrual ulcer.

3. In chlorosis, amenorrhœa has its natural correlative in the auxiliary hæmorrhages occurring through the mucous membrane of the stomach among others.

4. The gastralgic phenomena, which are essential in simple ulcer, are equally frequent in the course of chlorosis; but only, it is said, by sympathy.

5. Hæmatemesis manifests itself sometimes without pain, corresponding in that case to chlorosis when existing without gastralgia.

6. The anemia characteristic of chlorosis belongs equally to the simple ulcer, which produces at length a cachectic condition described by Brinton as special.

7. Finally, every treatment confirms this parallel, in showing that perchloride of iron is a very efficacious remedy for erosions of the stomach, and for chlorosis itself, compared to

which no other ferruginous preparations are worth anything.

M. Louton ends by saying that the hæmorrhage which engenders chlorosis may be produced in any other part than in the gastric mucous membrane of the duodenum, of the small intestine, and of the large intestine. He also advises as a means of verifying his theory, the examination of the stools; they would be found more or less coloured with blood, and the microscope would discover the presence of blood-corpuscles.

MENSTRUAL JAUNDICE.

The close relation existing between disturbances of the female sexual organs and affections of the liver is well known, to which is perhaps due the relative frequency of hepatic disease in females. Senator L. recently contributed an article in which he draws attention to the hitherto apparently unobserved coexistence of menstrual disturbances and jaundice. Four cases are recorded, in all of which, up to five repetitions, before or during the menstrual period, with slight or no loss of blood, jaundice appeared, continuing several days, and accompanied by corresponding constitutional disturbance and gastric derangement. With the appearance of a more copious flow the symptoms disappeared, leaving the patient well up to the next menstrual period. It was evident that the cause was biliary obstruction, from the simultaneous enlargement of the liver, the clay-coloured stools, and the biliary salts in the urine, which were detected in one case. One of the patients complained of hemorrhoids for the first time during this period. Another of the cases was interesting in having been affected three times during the first months of pregnancy, one and a half year before the occurrence of the attacks of menstrual jaundice, with jaundice benign in character, which is remarkable, as jaundice is usually malignant when occurring in connection with pregnancy.

Senator accounts for this condition by a hyperemia of the liver, which can easily cause swelling of the mucous membrane of the biliary passages, and their consequent occlusion. It is well known that obstructed menstruation is frequently accompanied by hyperemia of the liver, as also of other organs, as the thyroid body, and that of vicarious menstruation from the stomach, lungs, nose, etc., takes place.

Though the disturbances occasioned by menstrual jaundice may be slight and transitory, remedial interference is nevertheless recommended, to prevent the possibility of the accession of some severer form of hepatic disease. In the above cases the use of the warm bath, with the internal use of Carlsbad salts, with moderate diet, was found beneficial.—*New York Medical Journal*.

MATERIA MEDICA.

RESINA COPAIBÆ.

Referring to his former formula for the exhibition of resin of copaiba, Mr. A. W. Gerrard states that he became dissatisfied with this result, because after a day or two the resin collects and forms a semi-compact mass at the bottom of the

bottle. He therefore suggests (*Pharmaceutical Journal*) the following as an improvement. Take of

Resin of Copaiba 15 grains
Compound Powder of Almonds 30 grains
Water to 1 ounce.

Rub the resin with the powder until well incorporated, then add the water to form an emulsion. This forms, he says, a cream-coloured emulsion, having but a faint odour of copaiba. This may be removed by the addition of compound tincture of lavender, which at the same time imparts an agreeable pink tint.

SHORT NOTES.

CHIONANTHUS VIRGINICA.

Dr. L. J. M. Soss recommends chionanthus as a potent alterative and cholagogue, and has found it of great value in hypertrophy of the spleen and liver in cases of extreme and persistent jaundice and indigestion. He uses a tincture made from the bark of the root in the proportion of eight ounces to a pint of alcohol.—*New York Medical Review*.

DIGITALIS AS AN ANAPHRODISIAC.

M. Garnot, in the course of a paper published in the *Gazette Medicale de Paris*, on the action of digitalis, says, "When digitalis or digitaline is administered for some time to a man in full possession of sexual powers, these become gradually weakened, the propensities disappear, formation of the liquor seminis diminishes and may at last cease altogether. The anaphrodisiac properties of the drug are the secret of its good effect in spermatorrhœa."

A NEW USE FOR OLD STOCKINGS.

Apropos of impromptu fracture apparatus, we copy the following paragraph now going the rounds of the medical journals. We have often found the stocking a valuable substitute for the roller in bandages. "The broken limb is first bandaged with an ordinary roller; this is well coated with the gum and chalk mixture; another stocking is put on over this, and a fine layer of gum and chalk over all. This, for a case of transverse fracture, with a little starch or plaster of Paris, supplies a very neat and serviceable splint.

COD-LIVER OIL MIXTURE.

A preparation that has met with much favour under the above name, has been made by the writer from a formula given him by Mr. Hassard of Philadelphia. It is made as follows: R Fresh eggs, No. iv; lemon-juice, q. s. Place the eggs in a suitable vessel and pour over them sufficient lemon juice to cover them, and let the whole remain for twenty-four or forty-eight hours. Then pass the whole through a strainer, and add, with agitation, the following, and in the order given: To the lemon-juice and eggs add an equal volume of honey, cod-liver oil, and brandy or whiskey. The whole forms a permanent emulsion, and will keep good during the summer months for a month, and longer in cool weather. The taste of the oil can be completely covered by the addition of a few drops of oil of wintergreen or oil of bitter almonds. This mixture is pleasant to take, and a valuable therapeutic agent.

P.S. Glycerine may be substituted for the honey.—E. S. W.—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*.