

ends after two or three applications of the solution. In other cases it is necessary to follow up with an astringent collyrium to which is added morphine sulph. It is best to advise the patient that in an hour or so the power of accommodation may be slightly affected, in order that the dilatation of the pupil may cause no alarm.

If there were no other use to which cocaine could be put, I would, even at its present extravagant price, feel myself compelled to keep a solution on my table. The preparation I am now using is that of McKesson & Robins, and I secure it in the United States at 15 cents per grain.

PRURITUS VULVÆ.

The same remedy works most admirably in this troublesome affection. For three months this summer I had under treatment a young woman, who was carrying her first child. The suffering which she experienced from the pruritus was almost unbearable. After trying faithfully the various powders, ointments, and washes, whose use is spoken highly of, I hit upon a recommendation to use cocaine.

The 4 per cent. solution greatly ameliorated the symptoms, and the 10 per cent. solution completely removed them. I applied it in all three times, and left a small quantity with my patient, with directions to apply it if the itching returned. I delivered her on October 6th, at which time she stated to me that she had found necessity to use the application but twice, and that at intervals of over three weeks. In two other cases I have found the remedy to be of equal value.

It will certainly be of great service when the remedies usually applied are found to have no effect.

PRURITUS ANI.

In three cases of pruritus ani, or itching piles of long standing, I found cocaine to be of service. The parts should be thoroughly washed with Castile soap and water, and dried with a coarse flesh towel, after which the cocaine, in 4 per cent. solution, may be applied with a fine hair pencil.

Frequent applications are necessary, the effect being not nearly so protracted here as in pruritus vulvæ.

A NEW DIURETIC.

Caffeine, given in doses of three or four grains every three hours, I have found to be a valuable stimulating diuretic. In one case of which I have notes it increased the secretion more than double in 24 hours, and greatly lessened the specific gravity of the urine. In appearance and taste the caffeine might be easily mistaken for quinine; but the crystals are longer and the bitter taste less persistent in the mouth. Before using it should be triturated in a mortar, and I have found its taste masked well by the following combination :

R. Caffeinegr. iii.
Pulv. zinziberis.....gr. iii.
Sach. albgr. ii.
℞. Sig.—One every three hours.

Like many other of the remedies advised for asthma, I have found caffeine entirely valueless in the disease.

IVY POISONING.

The dermatitis resulting from the juice of the rhus toxicodendron is rather a common affection in this district. I find some remarkably susceptible. One farmer, who has consulted me four or five times, declares that he has in no single instance handled it or come in contact with it. He believes that the wind blowing from the vine upon him when he is sweating affects him, and I am confident that he is right.

Not too stimulating applications should be used. Sodæ bicarb., in strong solution, has a beneficial effect. Bromine is lauded as a specific, but opening the bottle is not unlikely to cause a funeral in the druggist's family.

Weak solutions of the acetate of lead, or of the sulphates of zinc or copper, may also be tried. I have in a large number of cases used the following formula, taken from the *Canadian Journal of Medical Science* three years ago. I find it to be very effective.

R. Fl. ext. gelsem. semp..... ʒii.
Acid, carbolic ʒss.
Glycerine..... ʒss.
Aquam ad ʒiv.
℞. Sig.—Moisten a cloth and apply.

Lately I have been using almost entirely the following formula, advised by Duhring in the latest edition of his work on Dermatology :—