

have shown that patients with moderate impairment of kidney function succumb to infections that are well borne by others who have a normal power of elimination. After saline infusions, patients may complain of distress over the diaphragm. This is obviated by the application of a two-inch strip of adhesive plaster around the base of the chest. This pain is attributed to an increase in the functional activity of the absorbing areas of the diaphragm; in no instance could it be attributed to peritonitis or pleurisy.—John G. Clarke, in *Univ. of Penn. Med. Bulletin*.

### SUPPURATING WOUNDS.

The use of compresses of sodium bicarbonate in the treatment of suppurating wounds is again brought forward by *New York Medical Journal*, August 31. It is claimed that (especially in burns) these compresses rapidly arrest suppuration and promote cicatrization even in cases rebellious to all other treatment. Moreover, the dressing gives excellent results in wounds which heal rapidly without suppuration, by causing the resulting scar to be almost inappreciable. In abscesses the results are equally satisfactory. Compresses may be applied as moist dressings, either renewed every day, or by moistening in situ twice or thrice daily, or again by placing between the compress and the outer covering a compress covered with boric vaseline to prevent evaporation; in this last case, the dressing may be left in place for two days. The principal advantages of this dressing are its absolute innocuousness and its analgesic and antiseptic action, which render it invaluable in practice with children.—*American Journal of Surgery and Gynaecology*.

### STIFFENED JOINTS.

In two cases of stiffened joints where the inability to move the limb has appeared to arise from rigidity of the tendons and muscular sheaths, I have injected, subcutaneously, olive oil into the structures, and with some success. I find that a fluid drachm of the oil can be injected around the knee-joint without causing any after inflammation or discomfort. In one instance, where the elbow was operated on in this way, the young woman obtained, for the first time, some degree of movement after six months' entire fixation from rigidity.—Ward, in the *Asclepiad*.

(Sweet almond oil is preferable to olive oil, as the latter is seldom had in a pure state in this country.—*Ed. Detroit Medical Journal*.)