

to which I have never found a patient willing to submit herself, and so have not been able to prove.

I have never yet observed any very decided action of the leaves as an emmenagogue. In some women it seems to possess scarcely any influence. The preparations of this drug which I have used have been a strong decoction or liquor, and an extract, the dose of the former being from one to two drachms daily, in water; of the latter five grains.—*Work on Infant Feeding.*

GUN-SHOT WOUNDS OF THE KNEE-JOINT.

Dr. Lidell, of Stanton Hospital, Washington, in a communication to the American Medical Times, says:—It sometimes happens that a musket-shot hits the knee in such a way as to open the joint to greater or less extent, without breaking bone, and the patient gets well with a good limb. I have seen three cases of this kind, all of which terminated favorably. But if the articulating end of either the femur or the tibia happens at the same time to be splintered by the bullet, the nature of the case is entirely changed. The patient will not make a good recovery. Sooner or later the joint will swell up, and become highly inflamed; great constitutional disturbance will also be developed, and the patient will ultimately lose his life if the limb be not removed by timely amputation.

The most dangerous cases, however, are those wherein the bullet enters the limb at a distance (greater or less) from the joint, and without opening the cavity of the synovial membrane, or perhaps without even coming into relation with it, shatters the bone in such a way that the fissures extend to the cartilage covering the articulating end of the bone, or even into the synovial cavity itself if the splintering happens to be very great. The danger of these cases is much increased by their insidious character. The patient may do well for eight days or even two weeks after he is wounded, and then of a sudden be seized with great pain in the joint, followed speedily by heat, tenderness, and much swelling; at the same time he has constitutional disturbance in the shape of surgical fever and great restlessness. If the traumatic origin of this acute arthritis happens to be overlooked, and if the case be put under treatment as if it had begun spontaneously, the inflammation will extend rapidly from the joint to the thigh, and in a short time involve it so extensively, that, if the surgeon shall now wish to remove the limb by amputation, he cannot find healthy tissues through which to operate; and before long the thigh will be converted into a vast abscess communicating with the joint. These are the so called cases of secondary inflammation of the knee-joint, and are certain to turn out badly if the limb be not amputated in season. As soon, therefore, as this form of traumatic arthritis develops itself, its exceedingly dangerous character should be recognized, and the limb cut off before the inflammation has had time to spread through the thigh in the form of diffuse cellulitis. In all such cases amputation must be performed early, if it be expected to save the patient.

With regard to the treatment of gun-shot injuries of a general of the knee-joint, I believe that in all cases of wounds of the soft parts alone, whether the synovial sac be opened or not, an effort should be made to save the limb, provided the loss of substance is not great. For this purpose the patient should lie still in bed, and have ice constantly ap-

plied to the seat of injury, quietude and ice being the most reliable agents for cure in such cases. If, however, the loss of substance be extensive, as in case of certain wounds inflicted by the explosion of shells, primary amputation should be performed. Again, if the bullet pass completely through the joint, cutting simply a groove on the articular surfaces, without comminution or splintering, I believe it to be our duty to try to save the limb; but if severe arthritis should supervene, it will then become our duty to amputate without delay. In all cases of wounds in the neighborhood of the knee-joint, associated with comminution and splintering of the articular end of either the femur or the tibia, amputation should be performed as soon as the diagnosis is made out.

RENNET WINE

By Dr. GEORGE ELLIS, DUBLIN.

About two years since, failing to obtain any benefit from the pepsine then usually sold, I had recourse to the direct preparation of a solution of gastric juice from the calf's stomach; and so gratifying has been the result, so satisfactory and remarkable its effects as a remedy in gastric derangements, that I wish to communicate to the profession the mode of preparation which I have found the most convenient, and the best for every purpose.

Take the stomach of a calf fresh from the butcher; cut off about three or four inches of the upper or cardiac extremity, which, containing few glandular follicles, may be thrown away. Slit up the stomach longitudinally: wipe it gently with a dry napkin, taking care to remove as little of the clean mucus as possible. Then cut it into small pieces, the smaller the better, and put all into a common wine bottle. Fill up the bottle with good sherry, and let it remain corked for three weeks; at the end of this time it is fit for use.

Dose.—One teaspoonful in a wineglassful of water immediately after meals.

Test of Quality.—One teaspoonful will solidify, to the consistency of blanc-mange, in from one to two minutes, a cup of milk (say eight to ten ounces), at the temperature of 100° Fahr. In this action on the caseine of the milk, it may be said that the wine alone would have some effect, but wine will not solidify milk, nor will it curdle it at all except at a much higher temperature, and in much larger proportion than the above.

This preparation, which I propose to call "Rennet Wine," has many advantages over the watery infusion of rennet which is obtained from the salted and dried calf's stomach (used largely in cheese making). The latter is also a good preparation, solidifying milk in the same way while it remains fresh; but it is much more troublesome in the making, and in warm weather it soon begins to react on the animal matters contained in it, and becomes spoiled. For these reasons, it cannot conveniently be used in medical practice. Rennet wine, on the contrary, is so easily made, requiring no salting or drying of the stomach, is so inexpensive, and can so readily be prescribed in private and in hospital practice, that I have little doubt, when known, it will become one of the most valued remedial articles in the hands of the profession.

I recommend the employment of good sherry, because this wine has sufficient body to keep the infusion perfectly sound for any length of time, and is not so strong in alcohol as to suffer any apparent