

VERY HOT COMPRESSES IN SURGICAL PRACTICE.

Professor I. I. Nasiloff, writing in the *Vratch*, gives an account of several cases of inflammation of the lymphatic glands, which he treated with very marked success by means of very hot compresses. These compresses consisted of a four-fold piece of linen, rather larger than the surface over the affected glands. It was dipped into water at a temperature nearly or quite equal to 212° F., wrung out, and applied quickly over the glands, its own temperature being then from 140° to 165° F. These applications were made morning and evening, the compresses being allowed to remain on, covered over with cotton-wool, for about fifteen minutes. As may be supposed, the application produced somewhat severe pain, but this did not last long, though sometimes not only redness, but a blister was caused. The treatment was continued for about a fortnight. It was found that it very soon began to promote absorption; this action was always accompanied by a rise of temperature, depending apparently upon the size of the diseased glands, and upon the extent to which absorption was taking place. It was noticed that the earlier the treatment was adopted the more effective it showed itself. Professor Nasiloff believes that hot compresses are a valuable form of treatment, not only in strumous glands, but in rheumatic osteo-myelitis and in fungoid inflammation of the joints.—*Lancet*.

DOES THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE HARDEN THE HEART OF THE PHYSICIAN?

This question has so often been answered in the affirmative, that it gives one who is in the ranks gratification to read of such a marked refutation of the charge. As the one given, in the *Med. News*, by Dr. Forbes, of Philadelphia. Hard-heartedness is nothing more nor less than deep-rooted selfishness. Among physicians, as among every other class of men, persons are to be found who possess this quality in a high degree; but the practice of medicine is in no way calculated to develop it. A good physician is schooled to meet emergencies, and his deliberate manner, when all those around him are giving pronounced expression of their feelings, has often been mistaken for hardness of heart. Under such circumstances the doctor often has a stimulus that none of the others have—his knowledge of the course that is able to relieve the suffering and lighten the distress of those around him. He is the hero of such occasions, and the realization of his responsibility urges him to do his duty in controlling those around him.

Dr. Forbes states that during the Johns' own

disaster, more than one-fourth of the entire number of physicians of the place lost their lives in trying to rescue others; and many of those who survived were conspicuous in their efforts to render aid to other sufferers from the flood.—*St. Louis Weekly Med. Review*.

CHLOROSIS.

Dr. Huchard, *Rev. de Clin. et Therap.*, points out that it is a mistake to push the ferruginous treatment in all cases of chlorosis. The total amount of iron in the body under ordinary circumstances is not more than a few grammes, and even in chlorosis all of it has not disappeared. Any surplus iron is more likely than not to give rise to gastro-intestinal irritation. He prefers to give the iron in the form of iron filings mixed with chalk, powdered coffee, or rhubarb, in the form of a powder. Vinegar, to which chlorotic patients are often extremely partial, is not to be absolutely forbidden; on the contrary, a draught containing hydrochloric acid, taken after each meal, is a powerful aid to digestion. The constipation should be overcome by means of podophyllin, and the uterine functions should be stimulated at the approach of the menstrual epoch by means of hot baths and an infusion of saffron internally. Massage and general gymnastics are also to be commended as adjuncts. In many cases when iron has failed, arsenical preparations, in conjunction with bitters, are successful, and the binocide of manganese has given good results when both iron and arsenic had been tried in vain. The binocide can be given in a powder with charcoal and powdered calumba root, or it may be given in the form of the lactate of manganese, made into pills with extract of cinchona. When iron is well borne he recommends the following formula: R ext. cinchonæ, ext. gentianæ, ext. rhei., āā, 5 grammes; ferrum tart., 5 grammes; ext. nucis vom., 50 centigrammes; ol. anisi, m; glycerine, q.s. To be mixed and divided into 100 pills. Two to be taken before each meal.—*Lond. Med. Rec.*

ANOTHER LOCAL ANÆSTHETIC.

Since the advent of cocaine, it has become quite the fashion to discover local anæsthetics. The latest is one which was introduced to the members of the Berlin Medical Society recently. Hayap is its name, and it seems to have considerable power. An aqueous solution distilled into the eye of an animal brought about complete anæsthesia which endured in various instances from ten to twenty-four hours.—*St. Louis Weekly Medical Review*.