

fatal. This remark is equally applicable to diet, drink and exercise. As patients become convalescent, they are very apt to suppose that the rules prescribed for them may be disregarded, and the consequence, but too often, is a relapse. Patients should never allow themselves to be persuaded to take any medicine whatever, that may be recommended to them by the self-constituted doctors and doctresses who are so frequently met with, and who pretend to possess infallible remedies for the cure of every disease. However simple some of their prescriptions may appear to be, it often happens that they are productive of much mischief, and in all cases they are injurious, by contravening the plan of treatment adopted by the physician.

7. A patient should, if possible, avoid the *friendly visits of a physician* who is not attending him—and when he does receive them, he should never converse on the subject of his disease, as an observation may be made, without any intention of interference, which may destroy his confidence in the course he is pursuing, and induce him to neglect the directions prescribed to him. A patient should never send for a consulting physician without the express consent of his own medical attendant. It is of great importance that physicians should act in concert; for, although their modes of treatment may be attended with equal success when applied singly, yet conjointly they are very likely to be productive of disastrous results.

8. When a patient wishes to dismiss his physician, justice and common courtesy require that he should declare his reasons for so doing.

9. Patients should always, when practicable, send for their physician in the morning, before his usual hour of going out; for, by being early aware of the visits he has to pay during the day, the physician is able to apportion his time in such a manner as to prevent an interference of engagements. Patients should also avoid calling on their medical adviser unnecessarily during the hours devoted to meals or sleep. They should always be in readiness to receive the visits of their physician, as the detention of a few minutes is often of a serious inconvenience to him.

10. A patient should, after his recovery, entertain a just and endearing sense of the services rendered him by his physician; for these are of such a character, that no mere pecuniary acknowledgment can repay or cancel them.

SACCHARINE.

The article of sugar enters so largely into our ordinary diet that the diabetic patient and those suffering from polysarcia find it a terrible hardship to be deprived of it. The chemical curiosity of the laboratory, saccharine had not long to wait before being turned to useful account in the treatment of these two pathological conditions. Owing to its being excreted by the kidneys in exactly the same condition in which it is ingested, it can have no injurious effect upon the patient, and in any case the amount required to sweeten food is exceedingly minute. Mr. Dyer of Philip's Square showed us the other day some little tablets each containing one grain of saccharine, and one of which he assured us was amply sufficient to sweeten a large cup of coffee.

BICHLORDE OF MERCURY.

At the same time our attention was called to some capsules, each labelled. poison, packed in boxes of twenty-five, and each of which capsules containing enough corrosive sublimate to make, when added to one pint of warm water, a 1 in 1000 solution. We have for some time past been using tablets of the same size and strength in our obstetric and gynecological practice, and have found them very convenient, but these labelled capsules add the element of safety to that of convenience.

COMPOUND MEDICINES.

Sir Dyce Duckworth, M.D., of London, says: There is a great tendency now to employ concentrated preparations and to use drugs singly. This results from laboratory rather than from bedside research. There is less polypharmacy now than formerly, but I am satisfied that there is also less good prescribing than in my student days. The art of combining drugs has been much lost, and I think the practice of physic is by so much the poorer.

I have no doubt that these opinions will prove shocking in some quarters, but I simply state what I believe to be true. It is, I think, certain that some drugs are more effectual in combination with others than when given by themselves.