

From *Rivista Clinica di Bologna*.

NITRITE OF AMYL.

We take the following from an account of the work of Dr. Jvan Ermesagem on Nitrite of Amyl, in the above journal. "The author divides into four classes the diseases in which the nitrite of amyl may be used: 1st. Syncope, coma characterized by weakness of cardiac innervation, anæmia, and the venous congestion of the cerebro-spinal centres. 2nd. Diseases characterized by vascular spasm. 3rd. Spasmodic affections of voluntary and involuntary muscles, diseases characterized by extreme elevation of temperature. The nitrite of amyl is chiefly administered by inhalation. Three drops on a handkerchief will avert threatening syncope from chloroform. In sea-sickness it will succeed heroically, according to the observation of Dr. Clapham (a hundred per cent). In hemiplegia, two drops will suffice to cure; but it is especially in angina pectoris and in asthma that the best results are obtained. But its employment is contraindicated in old people, or in those presenting any vascular or cardiac lesion. It is also contra-indicated in puerperal plethora. Its use at all times demands much circumspection."

From *Gazette des Hopitaux*.

PURPURA IODICA.

Dr. Tournier has observed a new variety of purpura which has hitherto escaped the observation of physicians. It is connected, as a pathogenic effect, with the ingestion of the iodide of potassium. . . . This eruption appears in the form of miliary cutaneous stains, of a purple, blood-red tint, not disappearing under pressure with the finger. It had, for its preferential site, the legs, in the anterior tibial region; and once the purpura occupied the trunk. The eruption gives rise to no local or general symptoms, and disappears after a lapse of time varying from two to three weeks. . . . As to the predisposing causes under the influence of which the iodic purpura is developed, they consist, not as might be supposed, in an impoverished, anæmic, debilitated state of the patients, or even in certain conditions of age, profession, external temperature, &c., but individual predisposition appears to be the only circumstance governing the ætiologic scene.

Formularies.

FROM FOTHERGILL'S HAND-BOOK OF TREATMENT.

One difficulty has always been felt, and it is this; even cod-liver oil is not always digested, and therefore something else was wanting. Dr. Balthazar Foster, of Birmingham, conceived the idea of utilizing Barnard's hint, and so combined ether with cod-liver oil. The increased flow of pancreatic juice so induced led to assimilation of the cod-liver oil, and thus another step forward was made in practical therapeutics. Another effect noticed by Dr. Foster was the return of a liking for fat under this plan of treatment, where previously a strong distaste to it had existed. One method is to give from ten to thirty drops of ether (sulphuric) in the dose of oil; or the ether may be given in water immediately before the oil. In private practice Dr. Foster prefers to give the following mixture:

Potassæ bicarb. ʒ jss, ʒ ij
 Acidi hydrocyan. dil. . . . M m. xij-xvj;
 Spt. ætheris. ʒ jss-ʒ iij;
 Aq. ad. ʒ viij. Misce.
 ʒ j ter in die sumat.

This method of adding to the usefulness of a course of cod-liver oil deserves wide and general attention.

Much difference of opinion exists as to the best forms of iron for common use. Some advocate iron in powder; others as haloid salts; while some prefer what are called the lighter preparations, as the ammonio-citrate and the potassium-tartrate. Personally, I prefer to commence in convalescence with the lighter preparations, and then go on to stronger forms. Much will depend on what it is desirable to combine with it. For instance,

Amm. carb. gr. v;
 Ferri. am. cit. gr. v;
 Inf. quassia. ʒ j

is a capital form in early convalescence, or in the treatment of amenorrhœa. After a time the following may be substituted for it with advantage:

Cit. fer. et quiniæ gr. v;
 Liq. strychniæ m. iv;
 Inf. calumbæ ʒ j