

ed subcutaneously in rabbits pure acid urine. It was absorbed without any apparent bad effect. Operation wounds moistened with fresh urine healed by primary intention. When ammoniacal urine was injected, even though it had been filtered, abscesses were formed, and the skin over them became gangrenous. In view of these results, the gangrene which appears so rapidly in cases of infiltration of urine, must be ascribed to the mechanical action of the fluid driven forcibly among the tissues, so as to tear or compress the blood-vessels. In plastic operations on the urinary or sexual organs therefore it is unnecessary to leave a catheter in the bladder so long as the urine is acid, whilst such operations should not be performed, if possible, when the reaction is alkaline.—*Med. Press.*

#### Toothache among the Ancients.

One by one our illusions as to the "good old times" vanish. Long had we cherished an idea that at least decayed teeth were unknown to our hardy ancestors, and were the peculiar privilege of our civilization. Mr. Mummery, in an able paper before the Odontological Society, has shown, however, that teeth were at times unsound even when the ancient inhabitants of the British Islands lived on coarse meal or the produce of the chase. Mr. Mummery has examined all the ancient skulls within his reach in order to determine this point. Beginning with the long-headed race, who are the earliest known human inhabitants, and have been supposed to be of a Basque type, he found instances of real decay, not many of wearing down, and none of dental irregularity amongst sixty-eight Wiltshire skulls; whilst amongst the round-headed skulls from the same county, supposed to belong to the later Belgic immigrants whom Cæsar found in possession of the southern part of the island, there were many more cases of caries, more also of wearing away, and some of irregularity, which Mr. Mummery believes to be indicative of a coarse vegetable diet and scarcity of animal food. Oddly enough, in Yorkshire the skulls of the earlier or long-headed race exhibit many signs of dental disease, both caries, wear and tear, and signs of abscess. As for the Romans in Britain, the practice of burning their dead makes collecting of skulls by no means easy, yet out of 143 Britanno-Roman skulls 41 had carious teeth; irregularity and abscess were also common, but not wearing away. No traces of stopping or artificial teeth have been found. Amongst Egyptian skulls wearing of the teeth is very common from the gritty, sandy character of the flour, and caries is by no means unfrequent. There are no traces of stopping, and it seems that the art of dentistry was almost confined to the extraction of teeth. Mr. Mummery's conclusion is that dental disease is not the exclusive privilege of a high state of civilization.—*London Medical Times and Gazette in California Med. Gaz.*

#### Chloral and Chloroform.

Communications on chloral multiply daily. Among some of its curious effects may be noticed an observation of Mr. Liégeois at the *Société de Chirurgie*, that in a case in which he had performed a minor operation under the influence of chloral,

which produced sleep, but not anaesthesia, he resorted to chloroform. To his great surprise he found that the association, so far from increasing the effects, gave rise to excitement which lasted as long as the inhalations were continued. The fact is the more to be remarked as tending to disprove the identity of action between chloral and chloroform insisted upon by Liebrich. M. Giraldés, proceeding in a different direction, administered to infants who have been chloroformed and remained very agitated, a chloral draught. The effect of the association was to produce peaceful sleep for from five to eleven hours. Since then he has frequently employed chloral, either in mixture or enema, whenever children have remained excited after chloroform, and always with success. M. Demarquay observed that he has continued with advantage his practice of giving patients, immediately after operation, successive doses of 2 or 3 to 5 grammes of chloral until sleep is produced. All subjects are, however, far from exhibiting the same effects from the action of chloral. In some, when it is given immediately after the operation, it produces a quiet sleep and deep calm, which lasts all day, and prevents any of the pain consequent on the traumatism being felt. Others proved refractory to the action of chloral, which is sometimes rejected by vomiting. As a medium dose he gives 2 grammes in two spoonfuls of syrup diluted with water. M. Giraud-Toulon has observed the same excitement produced by administering chloral in children that have been etherised as related by M. Liégeois in those who have been chloroformed.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

#### Diseases of Women.

Dr. Savage, in his work on the Surgery of the Female Pelvic Organs, says that "A vast proportion of maladies referred to the uterus are moral, mental, or marital. Such are not only rebellious to instrumentation, but are aggravated as well as protracted by any kind of treatment of that character." This is certainly a step in the right direction. We have, of recent years, heard far too much of instruments and operations in the diseases of women.—*Med. Press and Circular.*

#### Dislodging a Calculus Impacted in the Urethra.

Removal of a concretion so circumstanced is much facilitated by passing down to the stone a director, having its groove charged with oil. The instrument is then moved about, so as not only to dilate the canal, but likewise to lubricate it, and then a little manipulation over the bulb forces the stone forward to the meatus, or at least to a little behind it, from whence it can be readily extracted with a scoop.—*Ib.*

#### Medical "Wrinkles."

The quaint and practical Thomas Inman, M.D., of Liverpool, in one of his readable essays on the "Restoration of Health," thus remarks:—"Do you wish to ascertain the health of a baby, feel the condition of its buttocks. If these are firm and elastic, one may always be sure that the little one is strong and well; but if, on the other hand, they are soft, as if they were boiled turnips in a bladder, it is certain that the child is out of sorts."—*Med. Record.—Med. and Surg. Jour.*