

DEATH FROM SUBLIMATE IRRIGATION AFTER ABORTION.

Seven years since, Tarnier introduced the practice of washing out the vagina with weak corrosive sublimate injections. The results proved satisfactory, and the injections came into vogue in German and English, as well as in French, lying-in hospitals, extending freely into private practice. Like every thorough method of counteracting deadly agencies in the human organism, sublimate irrigation is not free from danger, and although it greatly reduces the death-rate and proportion of puerperal fever cases in long series of labours, some cases of mercurial poisoning will occur in those series, notwithstanding the most careful administration of the remedy. In this country Drs. Dakin and Boxall have published very minute observations on mercurialism under the above-noted conditions; they appeared in the *Transactions of the Obstetrical Society* for 1886 and 1888. Dr. Legrand read before the Anatomical Society of Paris, in April, a case of twin abortion, retained placenta, and death from acute mercurialism. Between the birth of the first and second child, 10 litres of a 1 in 2,000 solution of sublimate were employed to wash out the uterine cavity, twice at an interval of three hours only. Immediately after each injection of sublimate a 2 per cent. solution of boracic acid was thrown up into the uterine cavity; but sublimate had been several times employed for vaginal injection. After the extraction of the second child the boracic solution was injected into the uterine cavity. The intra-uterine injections were discontinued, and boracic and carbolic solutions were used for the vagina. A day later gingivitis, salivation, colic, and dysentery set in, and carried off the patient in five days. The kidneys were large, pale and very oedematous; they contained mercurial salts in solution. The palate was ulcerated; the œsophagus, stomach, and small intestine healthy. The mucous membrane of the entire large intestine was covered with eschars and ulcers, most marked on the summits of rugæ. The ulcers began in the cæcum, were

least abundant in the transverse colon, and most marked towards the anus. The above conditions have been noted in many other cases of death after sublimate irrigations in childbed. The kidneys were diseased. Keiler, of Berne, has already pointed out the danger of mercurial irrigation when these organs are not healthy. The English authorities just quoted both dwell on this danger. Dr. Legrand relates that the ulcerated intestinal mucosa swarmed with bacteria. This fact, he adds, must make us despair of ensuring intestinal antiseptis by means of corrosive sublimate.—*British Medical Journal*.

TREATMENT OF BUBO BY COMPRESSION.

Having seen a large number of cases of bubo treated in hospital here and elsewhere, and in consequence of the protracted retention of men in hospital, which I have known in some cases to exceed three months when incisions were made, and which was rendered necessary till all the incisions healed and inflammation subsided, I have been trying, if possible, to see if there is some means of stopping the inflammatory process other than by incisions of any kind, especially out here during the hot season, where wounds heal up much more slowly than in England, for various reasons; the recovery, perhaps, being retarded by the men themselves being somewhat below par, and materially aided by the depressing effect of the very hot weather we have just been having. The following treatment, as detailed below, I have found most efficacious, and comparatively speedy as compared with others I adopted; the cases by it recovered rapidly, and were soon discharged from hospital, thus preventing the long stay in hospital, which very often occurs as a result of, and is rendered necessary by, the treatment by incision. The treatment which I usually adopt now in these cases of bubo when seen early is, first, to apply a piece of lint saturated with a solution (composed of extract of belladonna and glycerine, equal parts) over the bubo, and a piece of oil silk or some pro-