

A NOVEL LOVE POTION.—The coloured race furnish some very peculiar ideas on the subject of love potions and powders, but the following is one that is entirely new to us. A dark-coloured damsel mixed some of her menstrual blood with the coffee of the coloured gentleman she wished to influence. The explanation she gave for so doing was that it would keep him true and excited. We can readily see how the latter effect might be produced were he cognizant of the nature of the material taken.—*Lancet-Clinic.*

THE CANTHARIDIN TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.—F. Coccia gives the following as the conclusions at which he has arrived after a trial of Liebreich's treatment of tuberculosis (by cantharidinate of potassium): (1) The injections are very painful, and the method is therefore difficult of application in the case of patients who have to attend to their employment; (2) doses of 0.0001 g. are not dangerous in the case of any kind of patient; (3) doses of 0.0002 g. are sufficiently dangerous to be contra-indicated in cases of advanced phthisis; (4) the injections, when frequently repeated during a long period of time, cause physical prostration and serious mental depression; (5) in the last stage of the disease the treatment is absolutely inadmissible; (6) in incipient cases the injections may be used with the view of modifying the bronchial mucous membrane and the expectoration, and relieving cough; (7) the night sweating and the general state may be favourably influenced by the treatment in the early stage; (8) the injections have no effect on the fever, and hæmoptysis seems to be made more frequent by them; (9) neither the pulmonary lesions nor the bacilli are in any way modified by the treatment; (10) tuberculous ulcers in the larynx are not affected except that in the very early stage they show a slight tendency to become cleaner.—*The British Medical Journal.*

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SALIVA upon the digestive act has been generally underrated, because physicians usually think that its action is brief, being the time employed in mastication, and that said action terminates upon its entering the stomach. The fact that Morse's Diastase acts as promptly when exhibited one hour after the ingestion of

food as during mastication, proves conclusively that ptyalin is *not* destroyed by the gastric juice, and probably not even held in abeyance during its passage with the food through the alimentary tract, and it is now possible to estimate the importance of the digestive enzymes by experiment with Morse's Diastase, a definite and measurable diastatic agent, *not* an artificial product due to the interaction of the principal constituents of malt, and which do not represent its molecular arrangement. Morse's Diastase is the only preparation of malt which presents these constituents in their normal condition, and, therefore, properly a therapeutic agent deriving its value from germinated grain.

The ordinary syrupy extracts of malt are commonly concentrated in an open pan at a temperature of 212°F. The result is to destroy the diastase which is rendered inactive by any heat over 180°F, imparting a burnt taste and producing a syrupy extract, composed almost entirely of maltose, the substance formed by the action of the ptyalin of the saliva on starch. Now, what is wanted is the *ptyalin* in a *normal* state, and *not* the product of the completed action of the ptyalin on the starch, as is usually dispensed in ordinary malt extracts. Realizing the value of the diastase of malt ever since the introduction of maltopepsyn, in 1880, a preparation containing the precipitated extract of diastase (*dry*) and pepsine, Mr. Hazen Morse, of International Bridge, Ontario, formerly of Toronto, has endeavoured to perfect the process of concentrating malt four times more reduced than the syrupy extracts, and yet to make an extract of the density of an ordinary fluid extract, doing away with the syrup or maltose, and presenting the ptyalin in its most active and normal condition. The value of Morse's Diastase is far ahead of the ordinary malt extracts, which have met with such general favour that it is unnecessary to bring forward the many testimonials from high authorities regarding the value of malt in therapeutics.

Believing this new candidate for favour to be ahead of anything he has before presented, Mr. Morse earnestly solicits correspondence with co-workers, and is ready and anxious to furnish any reasonable quantity free to all physicians desiring to make a thorough test. Address, Hazen Morse, International Bridge, Ontario.