

lis, of the consecutive kind, it is decidedly inferior to mercury; but in the irregular types, where this and any other real anti-syphilitic would be proscribed, it may be beneficially employed. Hence nitric acid is useful in phagedena; sloughing; in syphilis occurring in the scrofulous; in old debilitated constitutions; in systems enfeebled by long residence within the tropics; and where, from misuse, mercury has been pernicious. Nitric acid is not, therefore, a true anti-syphilitic of any power. It is, perhaps, more often prescribed, under the above circumstances, in syphilitic rheumatism, nodes, periostitis, or otitis; but in all these affections it is not equal to potass iodid. It may be given alone as the acid nitric dil in doses of mn xx to xl with water, or in mixture with decoction of sarsaparilla. It requires to be persevered in until ptyalism, or soreness of the mouth, is excited, but this event is not always producible. Occasionally it is resorted to as a bath; ziss may be added to every gallon of water for this purpose, should this proportion induce too much cutaneous irritation, the amount of water ought to be increased. It is to be used night and morning; and continued for 10 or 15 minutes each time; it is most suited for those cases in which the skin affection is the most prominent feature.

Nitro-Muriatic.—Enjoys the same properties with the former, and is equally useful. It may be given in doses of from 10 to 15 drops, or used as a bath like nitric acid.

Hydrochloric.—Hydrochloric was introduced as an anti-syphilitic about the same time as nitric acid. It would appear to be the better remedy of the two. Mr. Pearson, after a fair trial of both, gave a testimony rather adverse to the nitric acid, but considered that the hydrochloric could radically cure the disease. It has been largely used in the Vienna Hospital, and several hundreds of cases have been benefited by it alone. It is essential for the success of the treatment, that abstinence be enforced; it has been found to fail when a full diet was allowed. It may be given in the same forms, and doses, as the last. I have no personal experience of it—but presume it is only intended to be employed in the same conditions as the other acids.

Guaiacum.—Guaiacum, or the lignum sanctum, reminds us of the difference that exists between the opinions entertained of the same agent when it is a novelty and after it has become an antiquity. In the beginning of the 16th century, we are told by Nicholas Poll that in 9 years, more than 3000 diseased persons had derived permanent benefit from the use of this medicine. While on the contrary it is now so little esteemed, that no one even thinks of trusting to it alone, and but few even deign to use it. It is not always easy to account for these changes of the public mind, but in the present instance the explana