

ounce); then introduced a piece of lint, smeared with boric ointment, the contraction of the sphincter keeping it in contact with the sore. The bowels were kept in check by pilula piumbi et opii. Liquid food only was allowed.

The subsequent treatment consisted in the use of a powder (powdered boric acid, half a dram; violet powder, one ounce), which was sprinkled freely on lint, and introduced into the anus to dry up any discharge, and the continued use of the boric ointment.

By these means the fissure was entirely healed in six days, and there has been no return of the symptoms.

I have always found one application of chloride of zinc enough; it usually causes some smarting and uneasiness, but nothing more effectively purifies the ulcer or stimulates the reparative process. The introduction of cocaine robs the operative procedure of one drawback, the necessity of taking an anesthetic; yet I may recommend a trial of this treatment, at least in the case of those who have an innate horror of any thing approaching "cutting"—*A. D. Macgregor, M.B., British Med. Journal.*

THE TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY WITH BORAX.

In the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, February 10, 1886, Dr. Charles F. Folsom calls attention to the use of borax, and reports cases in which the use of borax, commencing with ten grains three times a day, and then increasing up to fifteen grains, finally to twenty grains three times a day, served to greatly reduce the number of convulsions, even although nearly all the other methods of treatment had proved unavailing. In other ways the improvement was also great; the attacks of *petit mal*, which formerly were almost incessant, occurring sometimes twenty in a single hour, are now very seldom the source of annoyance, while the general health is almost perfect. The only annoyance noticed was a dry scaly eruption, giving rise to a good deal of itching, but which disappeared after several weeks' use of arsenic internally, and oxide of zinc ointment with vaseline given externally. Aromatic tinctures given with the borax prevented the nausea which immediately followed its use when mixed with water alone. Borax cannot be claimed ever to cure absolutely cases of epilepsy in which the bromides have failed, but it nearly always will produce improvement in the general health, and will lessen the severity and frequency of the convulsions. Dr. Folsom especially recommends the alternate use of borax and bromides, particularly in cases which have been for a long time under the influence of bromides, and which are therefore in the wretched condition nearly always caused by prolonged use of these drugs. The first few doses of borax often produce diarrhea, which soon ceases. Eruption

on the skin is readily controlled, and the tendency to nausea, flatulency, and indigestion is easily met by chloroform, tincture of cardamom, compound spirits of lavender, etc., given with the borax.

THE CURE OF ASTHMA.

In a recent communication to the *Medical Record*, Dr. Richard B. Faulkner, says: "I understand by the term asthma, the condition of spasm of the bronchial tubes of both lungs, with hyperæmia approaching or amounting to inflammation, accompanied by rales upon both inspiration and expiration, with great difficulty of breathing, and the term is applied to the paroxysm alone, which returns at regular or irregular periods. Disturbance of function or disease of structure of the pneumogastric nerve is always present.

To cure paroxysms, I originated a method of treatment nearly five years ago; and repeated observation has confirmed its great utility. When called to a case of asthma, with a camel's hair brush, I made a streak of Churchill's iodine over each pneumogastric nerve in its course in the neck, from the upper part of the thyroid cartilage to the upper borders of the clavicles. By counter-irritation thus applied, the capricious and abnormal exercise of nerve-force by the pulmonary filaments is controlled, and bronchial spasm promptly relinquished. Such is my original method—simple, certain, quick. Churchill's tincture is the best counter-irritant, because, first, it is convenient; second, its action is easily controlled; third, it does the work. To permanently cure the paroxysms, it is usually necessary to remove the underlying morbid condition upon which they depend or are associated.

DIARRHŒA AND FEEDING BOTTLES.

"Baby has the diarrhœa, doctor." "Do you nurse him?" "No, doctor, he takes the bottle." How frequently has this conversation taken place between doctor and mother.

One of the commonest causes of diarrhœa, nasty, persistent diarrhœa, that resists treatment, is the use of the bottle. Yet it should not be so; it is not a necessary accompaniment of the bottle.

But the majority of mothers are careless about keeping the bottle clean. Two bottles should be always in use. When one is emptied, it should be well washed in hot water, thoroughly rinsed, and allowed to stand full of warm water, into which a small piece of washing soda has been introduced, until required for use, when it should be again well rinsed.

Long nursing tubes are abominations, and form ready nests for the propagation of disease germs. We should employ the ordinary rubber nipple, without any tube, and, having several on hand, those not in actual use should be kept soaking in water and soda. If we have good milk, that has