

spasm coming on after the principal meals, improve or are completely cured by the oil treatment.

The oil is best taken—either naturally or through a stomach-tube—in doses of about thirteen drachms, three times a day, one hour before meals. If for some reason it cannot be taken three times a day, it should be given in the morning on an empty stomach in doses of about three and a half to five ounces.

5. The oil answers three indications: it breaks the spasm, diminishes the friction, and markedly increases the nutrition; because, even in cases of very pronounced stenosis, it gets into the small intestine and is there absorbed.

6. In cases of ulcer, the oil acts on the spasm as an anodyne; provided it is pure and genuine, it produces no secondary disagreeable effect. There is no belching up, no diarrhea, and the patients take it willingly.

7. In cases of cramp or spasm of the stomach of a purely nervous origin, the oil produces no favorable effect whatsoever—a fact which may serve as a point of differential diagnosis between spasms of organic and of nervous origin.

8. By the aid of the treatment with olive oil we succeed in improving a great number of cases of pyloric stenosis with resulting gastrectasis, so that surgical interference becomes unnecessary. It is, therefore, desirable to employ this treatment in all cases of pyloric stenosis before resorting to surgical operation.—*Med. Age.*

CATALEPSY.

The cataleptic state is one which is somewhat rare in occurrence in general practice, although it is observed rather frequently in asylums for the insane. G. W. Norris (*Phila. Med. Jour.*, Dec, 15th, 1900) reports an interesting case of this disorder in a young man, twenty-three years of age, an inmate of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane. This patient, a student, became very despondent after a failure to pass certain examinations. He continued to worry, ate poorly, and lost a good deal of flesh. One day he was found pounding his head against the wall. Six months later he became violent and destructive, and had to be restrained. He refused to dress or undress or help himself in any way. He repeatedly soiled clothes and the bedding with his discharges. He had not been heard to speak in six months. His limbs offered no resistance to movements and remained in any position in which they were placed for considerable periods. Because he was found masturbating, he was circumcised and blistered, and the habit checked. For nearly two years the patient's condition remained practically unchanged, although physically he had been considerably built up by food tonics, etc. Several times he screamed