

ful with a fine powder of equal parts of boracic acid and roasted coffee. In recent cases he was able to obtain a radical cure in from eight to fifteen days, and even after the disease had become firmly established the number of attacks was reduced, after from two to six days of treatment, from fifteen or twenty to four or five in the twenty-four hours, and a like improvement was noted in the other symptoms. The insufflations were practised morning and evening.

In the fasciculus for June, 1886, of the *Rivista Clinica de Terapeutica*, appears a communication from Dr. P. Sertoli, in which inhalations of iodoform and oil of turpentine are recommended very warmly for the cure of pertussis. The writer states that he found the number of the attacks to be lessened and their severity to be diminished soon after the inhalations were begun, and the duration of the disease was also shortened, a complete cure being obtained within less than twenty days.

We have previously referred to the results obtained by Dr. Moncorvo, of Brazil, with resorcine, and very recently also to the success claimed from the employment of narceine by M. Laborde and others. These are by no means all the methods which have been brought to the notice of the profession with the endorsement of their advocates, but they will suffice to show either that pertussis is far from being the intractable disease which it has hitherto been supposed to be, or else that it is very variable in its duration and course, sometimes subsiding spontaneously whatever form of treatment be adopted.—*N. Y. Med. Record*.

TREATMENT OF RHUS-POISONING.

A timely article upon the treatment of rhus-poisoning appears in a recent issue of the *Journal of Cutaneous and Venereal Diseases*. The poisonous principle of *Rhus toxicodendron* (poison-oak) and of *Rhus venenata* (poison-ivy) resides in a volatile acid known as toxicodendric acid. The disease resulting is known technically as dermatitis venenata. It is a curious fact that this poison is utterly inert with many persons, and consequently, for the production

of the dermatitis there must be some individual predisposition. So far as we can learn, dermatologists have not yet learned what makes up this curious and unfortunate predisposition. The plant is more active apparently in the spring and fall, and according to some authorities California is particularly rich in it. Even in standard works, there is a singular confusion as to the two plants which give rise to the toxicodendric acid. The poison-oak, or *Rhus toxicodendron*, is a rare plant, while the poison-ivy, or *Rhus venenata*, is comparatively common. Webster's Dictionary is incorrect on this point.

The disease which the poison produces is a dermatitis which runs a natural course of from one to six weeks, averaging perhaps two weeks. Its occasional very mild and brief course has led to the announcement of many specifics for rhus-poisoning. Specifics, however, do not in reality exist, and the most that can be done is to palliate the symptoms, and perhaps shorten the period of the inflammation.

The remedies most highly recommended by the editor of the *Journal* are the following: *R. Sodii hyposulphitis*, ʒj.; *glycerinæ*, ʒss.; *aq.*, ad ʒviij. *M.* Apply with compresses frequently renewed. When lotions cannot be continuously used the following powder is freely applied: *R. Pulv. zinci oxid.*, ʒij.; *bismuth. subnitrat.*, ʒj.; *amyl.*, ʒv. *M.* In later stages the following ointment may be given: *R. Pulv. zinci oxid.*, *amyl.*, āā ʒij.; *vaseline*, ʒiv. *M.*

Another treatment highly recommended is the frequent application of black wash, followed at night by the following ointment: *R. Acid. carbolic.*, gr. x-xx.; *ung. aq. rosæ*, ʒj.; *hydrarg. chlorid. mite*, gr. x. *M.*

Both Dr. Hardaway, of St. Louis, and Dr. Van Harlingen, of Philadelphia, recommend highly a solution of sulphate of zinc, gr. ij. to O j. A mixture of fluid extract of *grindelia robusta*, ʒij. to ʒj. of water is said to be very effective. Cloths are to be wetted with this, and then kept on the parts until they are nearly dry. *Grindelia* is generally believed to be the most efficient of the vegetable remedies, although Dr. Hyde, of Chicago, speaks enthusiastically of an ointment made by incorporating a decoction of the inner bark of the