

### A MIXTURE FOR WHOOPING-COUGH.

A contributor to *Un. Med.* prescribes the following formula :

Tincture of belladonna..... 5 drachms  
 Tincture of valerian, } each, 75 grains.  
 Tincture of digitalis, }

For a child two years old, begin with five drops daily ; increase the amount by five drops each day until it reaches thirty drops. The initial dose and the increment are ten and fifteen drops, respectively, for children between two and five years old and for patients who are still older. If the valerian is not well borne, tincture of musk may be used instead. Where nervous and spasmodic symptoms predominate, the author resorts to chloroform, giving to children between two and five years old from six to thirty drops daily, in two ounces of gum julep.

### VOMITING OF PREGNANCY.

The latest remedy for the obstinate vomiting of pregnancy is the hydrochlorate of cocaine. Dr. Holtz (*Algem. Med. Wochenschr.*) says that in a case where, everything having failed, he had determined to produce abortion, but at the last moment, thought of cocaine, he gave the patient 10 drops of a 3 per cent. solution, and had the satisfaction of finding the vomiting under control. —*Nat. Druggist.*

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### THE ORIGIN OF THE EPIDEMIC.

The sub-committee appointed by the Civic Health Board to enquire into the origin of the late small-pox epidemic have submitted their report. This report consists of replies to certain questions put to persons known to have been connected in some way with the outbreak. From them we learn that previous to the beginning of 1885 there had been no small-pox in Montreal for several years,

and that the disease may be definitely traced from one, and perhaps two sources, and from one patient to another until the sequence of cases becomes lost in the widespread contagion of the early summer.

The lay statements in this connection are fairly unanimous, but it must be a matter of regret to the profession to learn that the stories of the two medical men who ought to know most about the matter—Drs. Hingston and Rodger—differ entirely and radically on important questions of fact. In the absence of evidence it is not our intention to take either one side or the other of this unfortunate controversy.

Dr. Hingston's letter—not embodied in the committee's report—is largely a reply to Dr. Rodger's statements, and we leave it to the professional friends of both these gentlemen to draw their own conclusions from these published letters.—To those who have not had an opportunity of seeing them, and in fairness to Dr. Rodger, it must be plainly stated here that he informed Dr. Hingston of his belief that the case he (Dr. H.) was asked to admit to the hospital was one of variola, that he knew that the patient Longley, a Pullman car conductor on the Grand Trunk Railway, had been exposed to the disease in Chicago ; that he reported the case to the Health Authorities as a case of small-pox ; that the case had been diagnosed independently in the Montreal General Hospital as small-pox, and that it ultimately turned out to be one of small-pox. Notwithstanding this, the impression is abroad that in the first days of Longley's stay in the Hotel Dieu, the medical men in attendance were generally of the opinion that he was the subject of not variola but varicella: We are not in a position to say whether this impression is correctly founded or not, but whatever may have been the understanding, or misunderstanding, as to the conduct of the case, it may, without fear of contradiction, be asserted that there was inexcusable carelessness displayed in the lack of proper isolation of the patient. We understand that students and other physicians were allowed to see Longley, and Dr. Hingston himself says that another man was allowed to remain in the wards because, forsooth ! he wasn't afraid of the disease ! No wonder the disease shortly afterwards breaks out in another ward, a medical student takes it ; friends of patients who visit the Hotel Dieu get it, and soon the whole Hospital becomes infected.

Dr. Hingston emphasizes the fact that he had a care of ventilation in the ward, but the subject