

ERGOTININE OR CRYSTALLIZED ERGOTINE.—M. Depaul presented to the academy a paper by M. Taure upon a new crystallized alkaloid which he has extracted from ergot, and named ergotinine. This alkaloid constitutes about one hundredth part of ergot, and gives it its hemostatic properties. It has been employed in uterine hemorrhages in doses not exceeding four milligrammes in twenty-four hours, and its action is precisely the same as that of ergot. (*Gazette Obstétricale*).

EUCALYPTUS AS A PROTECTION FROM FLIES.—An Eastern journal says, that if a doctor's horse is rubbed with eucalyptus leaves on those parts liable to the bites of flies, the insects will avoid them. Whether other horses than those of doctors can be so protected, is not mentioned. A writer in the *Melbourne Medical Record* recommends the oil of eucalyptus for the same purpose. He prepares it by saponifying an ounce of the oil with two or three drachms carbonate of soda in a water bath, and adding a quart of water. The animal is sponged slightly with the liquid before harnessing. The scent lasts several hours, during which time no fly will disturb him. The same sprinkled over the pillow by an atomizer protects a patient from flies. If this be so, it would be exceedingly valuable in hospitals.

THE DEGREE OF HEAT FATAL TO TENIA AND TRICHINA.—Professor Edward Perroncito, of Turin, communicates to the *Boston Med. and Surg. Journal* the results of an extended series of experiments on the degree of heat fatal to parasitic helminths and their germs. The cysticeri and scolices of various species of tenia, the trichina free and encysted, the filaria, the strongylus, etc., were made the subjects of careful and repeated observations. He found that they died, without exception, before the temperature of the liquid containing them reached 50° Cent., equal to 122° Fahr. The point of elevation which proved fatal with remarkable uniformity was 48° C., or 118.4° F. Five minutes' exposure to a temperature of 50° C. he regards as invariably fatal. The experiment of swallowing the cysticeurus after exposing it to that temperature, was tried by a number of courageous students, without ever producing a tenia. A much higher temperature has been generally supposed to be necessary for the purpose. But the experiments of the learned professor appear to settle the question of the entire innocuousness of food infested by parasites, after exposure to a degree of heat much below the boiling point of water (so far at least as the parasites are concerned).

HOW TO DEPRIVE IODINE OF ITS STAIN (*Ex. Am. Jl. Med. Sciences*).—Add a few drops of carbolic acid to the tincture and it will not stain; moreover, the tincture is more efficacious, and its action more certain. M. Boggs recommends the following formula for use in injections: Alcoholic tincture of iodine, 3 grammes; carbolic acid, 6 drops; glycerine, 30 grammes; distilled water, 150 grammes.

ELIOTROPINA.—The eliotropina europœum is an

indigenous plant, and grows in sterile places and among stones. This plant contains a rather sour and corrosive juice, which was once used for corns and warts, and also as a detersive in carcinomatous ulcers and old wounds. It has been lauded as an anthelmintic, emmenagogue, diuretic, and purgative, but fell into complete disuse. Nevertheless, Ballardier, a French chemist, a short time since discovered in it an alkaloid, possessing a febrifuge action very similar to that of quinine. He called it *eliotropina*. It is easily soluble in acidulated water, and also in simple water, and presents astonishingly all the reaction of the alkaloids. It has a bitterness equal to that of quinine, and a very pronounced febrifuge effect.—*Revista Clinica di Bologna*.

FOOD REQUIRED TO MAKE A POUND OF MEAT.—Professor Tanner, in the *Bath and West of England Society's Journal*, makes the following estimate of the increase of weight produced by a certain quantity of food, under proper circumstances of shelter and management:

25	lbs. milk furnish.....	1 lb. meat.
100	" turnips furnish.	" " "
50	" potatoes "	" " "
50	" carrots "	" " "
9	" oatmeal "	" " "
7.1	" barleymeal furnish...	" " "
7.4	" bread "	" " "
7.4	" flour "	" " "
3.5	" peas "	" " "
3.8	" beans "	" " "

ANTISEPTIC GAUZE.—LISTER's antiseptic gauze, which is prepared by impregnating a cotton-fabric of loose texture with a mixture of 5 parts resin, 7 parts paraffin, and 1 part of carbolic acid, has the disadvantage of being very stiff and unyielding. Dr. Paul Bruns, professor at Tübingen, proposed to overcome this difficulty by a change in the manner of impregnating the gauze, as well as by a different menstruum. He dissolves 400 grammes of powdered resin in 2 litres of alcohol, adds to the solution 40 grammes of castor oil, and finally 100 grammes of carbolic acid. The whole bulk measures now 2½ litres. This quantity is sufficient for impregnating 2 pounds (about 95 metres) of the gauze (previously deprived of grease). The gauze having been dipped into the liquid and well stirred about, it is removed, and suspended horizontally, when it will dry in about half an hour. Thus prepared it is quite soft and pliable, and contains a 10 per cent. solution of carbolic acid. After having been used, it may be cleansed by boiling in very dilute soda lye, and then be impregnated again.

Improved benzoated or salicylated gauze or wadding has also been prepared by Prof. Bruns. Both of these heretofore suffered from the drawback that on handling they gave off a fine dust of benzoic or salicylic acid, which caused much annoyance to the operator or attendant. Prof. Bruns prepares it by adding 3 to 4 parts of castor oil to the solution—for every 10 parts of benzoic acid. 100 grammes of benzoic acid and 40 grammes of castor oil (or 20