

forms and suddenly bursts from the explosion of its gaseous contents. It may be asked whether the same effects would not be produced on the living subject; I once tried it on an amputated leg and the phenomenon was observed.

G. A.

## LACTOSE, A NEW DIURETIC IN THE TREATMENT OF HEART DISEASES.

BY PROF. G. SEE.

Milk is the most certain diuretic we possess; because of this, and also because it is a perfect food, it plays a most important part in the therapy of diseases of the stomach and heart.

Prof. G. See has carried out a series of experiments to find the diuretic element or elements in milk, with the fortunate results of discovering what he considers the most certain, the most efficacious, and the most harmless of all known diuretics, viz., sugar of milk.

To the action of this substance on the secreting structures of the kidneys is alone to be attributed the remarkable diuretic power of milk, and its efficacy in reducing dropsies occurring in cardiac affections. As regards the other constituents of milk, chloride of sodium has no diuretic effect taken in quantities contained in milk, the potash salts have very little action, and caseine and fat appreciably lessen the diuretic power even of sugar of milk itself. The exhibition of three ounces of sugar of milk dissolved in four pints of water, and withholding from the patient all other fluids, milk, bouillon, tea, soup, wine, mineral waters, etc., produces a copious diuresis, which rapidly reduces dropsies occurring in all forms of heart disease, no matter what the lesion may be, degeneration of cardiac muscle, disease of the aortic valves, etc. The diuretic action is less constant in patients suffering at the same time from arterio-sclerosis.

Generally the drug is well borne—if the solution is badly tolerated mint water or brandy may be added. All other drinks ought to be either diminished or entirely prohibited. Lactose has the immense advantage of allowing at the same time the administration of all kinds of food—it allows giving a meat diet, which is so often indispensable to sustain the failing strength of patients suffering from cardiac disease.

In dropsies of cardiac origin lactose is unfailing, but in dropsies of renal origin its action is either doubtful or nil. In cardiac affections it only fails where complicated by Bright's disease, and when the albumen amounts to from eight to ten grains to each quart of urine. The less the amount of albumen the more favorable is the diuretic action of lactose, and this is so marked that the degree of implication of the kidney may be measured by the amount of diuresis produced. Some diuretics act by the high blood pressure produced, as digitalis, convallaria, or strophanthus; others, as for example the alkalies, by promoting osmosis; a third group, caffeine, theobromine, act directly on the secreting structures of the kidneys, and it is among the members of this last group that we must place lactose.—*Translated by Dr. D. W. Montgomery for the Pacific Medical Journal.*

NAPHTHALIN IN FÆTID DIARRHŒA.—Holsti has tried naphthalin in intestinal catarrh with fætid excreta. The dose for adults was  $7\frac{1}{2}$  grains four or five times a day; and it was never necessary to prolong the treatment beyond 10 to 14 days. For children of one to two years of age the dose was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 grains four times a day. In all cases, children as well as adults, an improvement was noticed from the beginning, though sometimes a relapse took place. This author recommends naphthalin especially in cases of obstinate chronic enteritis, where other remedies have failed. He has not experienced any ill effects from it in adults, but a child a year and a half old, who was taking  $1\frac{1}{2}$  grains four times a day, became profoundly anæmic, although the intestinal catarrh was considerably lessened. That is why Holsti recommends circumspection in the exhibition of this remedy to small children, especially if prescribed for a lengthened period.—*Journal de Médecine de Paris.*

SALOL IN CHILDREN'S DISEASES.—Demme has used salol in four cases of articular rheumatism, two cases of acute endocarditis, and in two cases of vesical catarrh; besides, he has prescribed it for external use in two cases of burn. Two patients, aged respectively eight and fourteen, suffering from acute rheumatic polyarthritis, took in 24 hours as much as 36 grains of