

have shown that the slight differences observed in the chemical composition of the water before and after sterilization have not altered its potability. With a filter, one can drink only the water of which he knows the source; with boiling, one can use any water. Boiling, then, should be the procedure of choice as soon as any suspicion arises; it should be the rule, especially in large cities, during the progress of any epidemic.—*Gazette hebdomadaire de Médecine et de Chirurgie—American Journal of Medical Science.*

THE ACTION OF CHLOROFORM ON THE HEART.  
—According to a telegram received from Surgeon-Major Lawrie on Monday last, he has by means of a series of ingenious experiments at last succeeded in obtaining irrefutable proof of the Hyderabad Commission that chloroform does not act directly on the heart. By a modification of the experiment of cross-circulation, he was enabled to investigate the action of chloroform vapor on the nervous system apart from the rest of the organism, and *vice versa*. Briefly stated, he found that if the blood containing the chloroform vapor were prevented having access to the brain no effect is produced on the respiration function, the blood pressure does not fall, and anæsthesia is not brought about. By reversing the experiment, the chloroform-laden blood circulating in the brain only, the characteristic fall of blood pressure occurs and anæsthesia follows. It is of course impossible to criticize results until we have been made acquainted with the details of the experiments; but unless some flaw in the *modus operandi* vitiates the findings, the results of Mr. Lawrie's investigation would appear to furnish the actual proof of the much-contested conclusion formulated by the Hyderabad Commission.—*Medical Press and Circular.*

BENZOATE OF SODA IN THERAPEUTICS.—Dr. Liégeois has written an exhaustive paper on the value of benzoate of soda in therapeutics. He considers this agent as of the greatest importance in the affections below named, provided it is given in large doses. The pain, dysphagia, and inflammation of the pharynx in the common sore throat are favorably modified and cured in two or three days by the admin-

istration of 1 drachm in children, and 3 drachms in adults, of benzoate of soda daily. In diphtheria it is certainly of service either internally or in insufflation, but is not equal to applications of salicylic acid. In laryngitis and the ordinary acute bronchitis, M. Liégeois considers it as a good expectorant when given at the onset. He prescribes it as follows:

R.—Benzoate of soda ʒj.  
Tinct. aconite, m xx.  
Cherry laurel water, ʒj.  
Syrup of tolu, } aa ʒ ij.  
Syrup of codeine, }  
Water, ʒij.

To be taken in the twenty-four hours.

Associated with tannin, benzoate of soda gives good results in Bright's disease if persevered in:

R.—Benzoate of soda, } aa ʒ jss.  
Tannin,  
Ext. of gentian, q. s.

Divide into 100 pills. Take 6 daily.

Given in small doses in uric acid gravel, it transforms the insoluble urates into soluble hippurates, and thus eliminates it from the urine. As a cholagogue, benzoate of soda occupies the first rank; he associated it with salicylic of soda and rhubarb:

R.—Benzoate of soda, }  
Salicylate of soda, } aa ʒ j.  
Rhubarb (powdered), }  
Nux vomica (powdered), grs. x.

Divide into 20 powders. Take 2 daily.

—*Medical Press.*

#### RHEUMATIC BRONCHITIS.—

R. Sodii salicylatis . . . ʒvi  
Glycerine . . . ʒiv  
Vini colch, rad . . . ʒvi  
Syr. scillæ comp . . . ʒiiss  
Tr. opii camph . . . ʒij—M.

Sig.—A teaspoonful every three or four hours in a little water.—*Dr. N. S. Davis, in Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

#### MIXTURE AGAINST VOMITING.—

Menthol, . . . ʒss  
Alcohol, . . . ʒss  
Syrup, . . . ʒiiiss

A teaspoonful every hour.

—*Med. Press and Circular.*