

but the elixir salicylic comp., I think, is a decided improvement over the simple infusion, as it is without doubt one of the most potent remedies for all rheumatic affections, and contains salicylic acid, sodii bicarb., potass. iodid., tr. gelsemium, and as it is prepared as a pleasant and agreeable elixir, can be administered to children or persons with irritable stomachs. It is a very valuable remedy as prepared by William R. Warner & Co.—"Medical World."

INFECTION BY THE GAS-BACILLUS

By O. T. Maynard, M. D., of Elyria.

Mr. M., aged 78, who had always been a healthy, very active and successful business man, met with unexpected losses that taxed his mental powers to the utmost for the past year. On May 1 he ate his breakfast as usual, with the exception that he ate rather more heartily, and ate a banana, which his people never knew him to do before. The day was rainy and he walked to his office without rubbers, and there found unexpected complications causing a great mental and nervous strain. At noon he walked home, feet still damp, and said he had a pain in his stomach which he noticed before leaving the office. He ate no dinner, and at two o'clock vomited a part of his breakfast, and his bowels moved freely. He undressed, giving up going to the office; the pain increased and 2 a. m., May 2, I was sent for, found the patient still vomiting undigested food, and with a severe pain in the stomach, causing profuse perspiration. The temperature was normal, the pulse eighty. On account of the stomach rejecting everything, I gave him a hypodermic of one-fourth a grain of morphine and a one hundred and twentieth of atropin. I left him easy and sleeping at four o'clock, called again at ten and found him resting, continued giving him antiseptics and nux and ipecac in small doses. He was without pain during the day, but sweat rather freely and seemed prostrated. At 6 p. m. he complained of a pain in his left hip just in front of the great trochanter; the nurse rubbed it and he slept from eight to ten, when he awoke with pain in the same hip, and when the nurse rubbed it she no-

ticed a little swelling, and when rubbed it "cracked." The pain and swelling increased. At 2 a. m. on May 3 he got up, walked to the closet and back, and I saw him at 3, when I found the temperature 103 degrees, pulse 120. There was great pain in the hip, and a swelling as large around as a breakfast plate sharply outlined and about one inch and a half thick, reaching nearly to the sacrum, covering the great trochanter and decidedly emphysematous. I could get no history of any severe injury. He had fallen in the winter upon stone steps, but never made any complaint of his hip. After a careful examination and not being able to find any cause for the emphysema, I told the family I considered the case serious and asked for counsel. Dr. Cushing arrived about 5 a. m., but could not give me new light on the case. At 8 a. m. we met there again and decided to open the swelling, which had continued to increase; we did this under the influence of cocain; on cutting through the deep fascia the gas escaped freely, and a grumous broken-down material full of parts of decomposing muscle followed. A finger passed into the opening found this kind of material as far as the finger could reach in all directions; a large drainage tube was put in and the hip dressed. There had developed a marked icteric condition, and the mind was not just right; these symptoms increased during the day, as did the swelling, the emphysematous condition extending to the foot, but he suffered no pain after it was opened; gas continued to escape all day through the tube. He died at p. m. on May 3.

Necropsy twenty-two hours after death; the patient was well nourished. The general appearance of the body was that of a person having been dead three or four weeks. There was general emphysema, and a very dark look; the muscles of the chest and abdomen were softened. I was able to tear them up with my finger. All of the internal organs were softened in the same way, but aside from that there was no evidence of a diseased condition in any of them. The intestines were opened in situ, but were not removed and washed.

The muscles of the hip were all broken down and disorganized, but