

ment? However, as we have before stated, it is harmless, and it may be of great value. Therefore, if we are not imposed upon, and do not have to "pay too much for our whistle," it is advisable to experiment with the new remedy.

SALICLATED-IRON MIXTURE.—*Phila. Polyclinic.*

R—Sodii salicylatis, . . . . . ʒ iv.  
 Tinct. ferri chloridi, . . . . . f ʒ iv.  
 Acidi citrici, . . . . . grs. x.  
 Glycerini, . . . . . f ʒ iss.  
 Ol. gaultheriæ, . . . . . ℥ viij.  
 Liq. ammon. citratis, q.s. ad, f ʒ iv. ℥.

Sol. sec. art. dos. f ʒ j or f ʒ ij.

Dissolve the citric acid and sodium salicylate in the liquor ammonii citratis. To the glycerine add the tincture of iron chlorid, and then mix the two solutions, finally adding the oil of gaultheria. One or two drams of mucilage of acacia would be a valuable addition with which to emulsify the oil of gaultheria.

In this prescription reaction takes place between the ferric chloride and sodium salicylate, resulting in double decomposition, giving iron salicylate, in the first solution. Care should be taken to keep the liquor ammonii citratis in slight excess, in order to have a perfectly clear solution of salicylate of iron.

Dose.—One or two teaspoonsful.

The prescription is used principally in the treatment of chronic cases of rheumatism or rheumatoid arthritis, in which anæmiæ or evidence of impaired nutrition is a distinct feature. It is likewise employed in acute tonsillitis of rheumatic origin, and in acute articular rheumatism in ænemic subjects, especially if the patient has suffered from one or more previous attacks.

The ordinary dose in chronic cases in adults is a dessertspoonful four times a day; in acute cases the same dose is given every two hours until tinnitus is produced or decided amelioration has occurred, when the dose is diminished or the intervals between the doses lengthened.

THE SURGICAL TREATMENT OF EMPYEMA.—Ashhurst, Jr., *Int. Med. Mag.*, gives as his opinion that no operation is justifiable unless the presence of pus is certain; and thorough treatment by medical agents, blisters, etc., has failed, or unless

the symptoms, dyspnea, etc., demand immediate relief. Diagnosis is exceedingly difficult, and there are no absolute symptoms or positive signs, indicative of the presence of pus. Simple aspiration, tapping the sixth or seventh interspace, with antiseptic precautions, is preferred to the hypodermic syringe or exploring needle, as by the former the operator can promptly evacuate when a diagnosis is determined. If the fluid is purulent or becomes so, incision and drainage should be practiced, making two openings, and carrying a large drainage tube through the cavity from one opening to the other. Supplementing the drainage by washing out the cavity with a mild solution of boracic acid is advantageous. Resection of one or more ribs, when the lung is so bound down by adhesions that it cannot expand, in order to allow collapse of the chest-wall, and to promote healing by bringing costal and visceral layers of the pleura into contact. Because of the risk of necrosis, osteoplastic resection is not recommended.

CROUP AND ALL CROUPOUS DISEASES CURABLE BY PILOCARPINE.—Carl Sziklai, *Journal of Laryngology, Rhinology and Otolology*, in an elaborate thesis read before the Ecole de Medicine in Paris, in which he describes the anatomico-pathological processes observed in croup, and its differentiation from diphtheria, concludes: 1. Pilocarpine is a specific for croup and all croupous diseases, *i. e.*, croupous laryngitis, croupous bronchitis, croupous pneumonia, croupous nephritis, croupous cystitis, etc. 2. The action of pilocarpine commences at once. In laryngitis crouposa cure is obtained in a few hours; in pneumonia crouposa in two or three days. 3. The result is certain, whether taken by mouth subcutaneously injected; also applied as suppositories or globuli vaginales. 4. In an advanced stage of laryngitis crouposa, with imminent danger to life, subcutaneous injection is preferred to internal administration. 5. By pilocarpine not only is duration of disease notably shortened, but mortality is *nil*. 6. In suitable cases, given early enough, it has a preventive action. 7. Pilocarpine can be given in twice officinal dose without fear of ill effects. The author's experience with this drug in treatment of croupous diseases extended over two and a-half years, and embraces over one hundred cases. His conditions and ob-