

vored and sweetened to suit the patient's taste, answers the demand for a pure article best, and yet it is very little employed. Brandy seems to be the favorite with the profession as well as with the laity, but it seems to be doubtful whether that should be so. The best sort of brandy—generally a very expensive article—is probably as good as any alcohol preparation, but it is with difficulty that we obtain it; most is of a poor quality and contains more or less fusil oil, and it is for that reason that it should be condemned. Nothing will interfere more certain with the beneficial effects of alcohol on the heart than fusil oil. Of the stronger preparations of alcohol, including all those known as strong liquors, whiskey is probably best adapted for medical use in this country, because it is made here, and a pure article can be obtained without paying a very high price for it. Rum and arrac are not much used. If for any special reason the diuretic effect of an alcoholic preparation is desirable, gin might be selected. Most of the European practitioners prefer the use of wines to that of stronger liquors, and they base their choice upon the fact that alcohol is contained there in a diluted form naturally and that the taste is more agreeable to the patient. Sparkling wines—champagnes—act much quicker than still wines, on account of the presence of carbonic acid, and should be selected in all cases where it is desirable to obtain the stimulating effect of alcohol as quick as possible. Oider contains such a small percentage of alcohol that it has little value as a medical preparation. Beer and kummis are also poor in alcohol, but they are valuable as nutritive agents on account of the other constituents—albuminoids, etc.,—they contain.

The diseases in which alcohol should always be given, though not at every stage, are diphtheria, pulmonary phthisis, typhoid fever, and the asthenic form of pneumonic fever. All these diseases depend upon the presence of a certain micro-organism within the human body; and as bedside experience teaches us the great value of alcohol in these cases, we might, remembering the power of alcohol as a germicide without the human body, ask

the question, if aside from the therapeutic effect mentioned above, alcohol has not also direct germicidal properties. Dr. E. N. Chapman, of Brooklyn, N. Y., claims that alcohol is a direct antidote to the diphtheritic poison. He says: "Alcohol is as antagonistic to diphtheria as belladonna to opium or quinia to malaria;" and he continues, "I have thought it opportune to submit to the medical profession certain empirical facts that have been accumulating during the past seventeen years. These show beyond cavil that alcohol has in my hands proved itself, when most physicians have been losing every third or fourth case, not only a valuable medicine, but a trustworthy antidote—one capable of saving ninety-five per cent. in severe epidemics. With me this scourge, thus robbed of its terror, causes no more anxiety than many common ailments." The doctor states that, during a period of four years, he treated one hundred and twenty-five cases with but one death, a result so astounding as almost to stagger belief. The *Journal of Dietetics* of October, 1887, contains the following: "Alcohol, we make bold to say, is the prince of antiseptics and the most perfect and valuable medicine of which we have any knowledge in diphtheria. Diluted with equal parts of water, and given in small and repeated doses, the malignant symptoms of this most fatal malady disappear and convalescence becomes assured. It is interesting to note with what facility the alcohol dissolves the diphtheritic exudation in the throat, lowers the temperature, and calms the pulse, showing its destructive work upon the germs of the disease. This remedy has been used by us in the treatment of diphtheria since 1873, during which time no case of the disease has slipped through our hands, except in one solitary instance, and that case was in articulo mortis before the remedy was given. The remedy is also prophylactic to the disease, as we have found in many instances."

These statements speak for themselves; and, although the writer has not been as fortunate in results, considerable experience has taught him to rely upon alcohol as a most valuable adjunct in the treatment of diphtheria. If alcohol is not given in