

benefit. The doctor has not yet employed it internally, but thinks it indicated in mild catarrhs, in hemorrhoids and parasites of the intestines. Of the undesirable action of ichthyol the writer mentions a general and local hyperhidrosis. It tends to increase the thickness of the skin, hence its beneficial effect in eczema, and so produces eruptions of miliaria. To counteract this the doctor recommends the powdering of the parts after applying the remedy, to facilitate the rapid absorption of perspiration, or by adding mildly macerating preparations, such as lime, for instance: \mathcal{R} Ichthyoli, 10.0; ol. olivæ, ap. calcis, aa 100.0. M.S.—To be well shaken before using, or, make a pause and intercurrently use warm baths made by means of sand, spent tan bark or white bolus, with the addition of a little soda. *St. Louis Review.*

Ichthyol (Monatsh f. Pract. Dermat.) is a substance which looks like tar, has a peculiar herbaceous odor and is of the consistency of vaseline. It is partly soluble in alcohol, partly in ether, and wholly in a mixture of both. It can be mixed with vaseline or fat in any proportion. It contains a large per centage of oxygen and ten per cent. of sulphur. The healthy skin is not irritated by it, while it has a very beneficial effect in all forms of eczema, and is to be used in gradually weaker strength as the eczema heals. In grown persons with papulous eczema it may be used as strong as fifty per cent. at first. The itching and pain are relieved, and soon the surface becomes drier and paler. It may advantageously be combined with salts of metals, as it does not form any sulphur derivatives with them. Ichthyol is made from a bituminous mineral, found in the vicinity of Seefeld in Tyrol. The color of the rock is light to dark brown, it contains from ten to sixty per cent. of bitumen. In the neighboring layer a great many impressions and petrefactions of fish are found, so that the Geologist, Prof. v. Fritsch, expressed the opinion that the bitumen contains the remains of antediluvial marine animals and fish. At any rate, from this discovery the preparation derives the name ichthyol. The mineral is subjected to a dry distillation, and a tarry product obtained, which, after careful cleansing, is treated with concentrated sulphuric acid; the sulphate produced is the substance under consideration. *St. Louis Med. Review.*

THERAPEUTICS OF THE THROAT.

By A. N. ELLIS, M.D., Lecturer on Laryngology, Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery.

Gentlemen:—In speaking of the special and general treatment of diseases of the throat I will pass over the latter very briefly. Before going further I shall call attention to the fact that the morbid conditions which underlie all affections of that important region are but few. Take away

syphilis, tuberculosis and that which comes in the train of the eruptive fevers, and we have very little left on which we may dwell long in speaking of the application of remedies for the purpose of building up the system or of eradicating constitutional vices or weaknesses. Hence the most of this paper will be given to the consideration of topical remedies and the use of different instruments. Time flies so rapidly that it seems but yesterday since Prof. Tuerck first used the laryngoscope in the Vienna hospitals, yet in that short space of time wonders have been done in detecting and remedying the defects and diseases of the human voice. Light has been thrown into dark places, slight changes have been readily diagnosed, growths, ulcerations, swellings, thickenings, deformities and abrasions are seen at a glance, and thus every appliance of science is brought to the aid of the most useful and fascinating specialty in the whole domain of medicine and surgery.

When Helmholtz invented the ophthalmoscope he opened the realm of a new world. Four years later came Tuerck, with the laryngoscope, and the voice of the dumb broke forth into songs of thanksgiving when set free by the skillful hand of our God-given art!

In speaking of the medication of the throat I shall pre-suppose a ready and complete knowledge of the throat-mirror, for without making ourselves master of that little instrument we may as well content ourselves with a simple tongue-depressor, and throw in general treatment after the crude old-fashioned way.

I shall speak of gargles, lozenges, inhalations, fumigations, pigments, sprays and douches. The limits of this paper will prevent my noticing, as I would like to, dietetics and hygiene. Ever keep in mind that in all specialties, as in general practice, our therapeutical methods must be adapted to the exigencies of our cases. Age, sex, constitution, individual and family history must all be taken into account. When we remember the great importance of the throat—that we must all breathe and swallow in order to live—slight changes in form and the presence of certain growths and inflammations are of the greatest moment, for upon this condition of things very often hang the issues of life and death. The age in which we live is one that demands accurate scientific knowledge. What we know we must know well; and what we are to do, must be done *at once*, and with the greatest judgment, knowledge and skill. Many a valuable life has been snuffed out in a moment by a transient oedema, which might have been relieved by a trifling operation. The most terrible scene in the life of the illustrious Washington was the short hour when he choked to death for want of a hand to save him!

I. GARGLES.—Gargles have always held a prominent place in all works on the throat. They are as popular as they are time-honored, yet after all they are of very little use, for they scarcely ever penetrate behind the anterior pillars of the fauces