

believes that the carbonate is superior as an anæsthetic and antiseptic to guaiacol itself, the only drawback being that it is much less soluble; and he believes that in this drug we have a very important addition to our means of treating chronic cystitis.—*British Medical Journal*.

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LUMBAR PUNCTURE OF THE MENINGEAL CAVITY.—Gaibissi (*Gazz degli Osped.*, February 22nd, 1896) has practised this operation ten times in seven different cases, and although it could not be said that the patients were materially improved by the operation, yet in no case was there any evil result, and there was generally some slight amelioration in the symptoms. The author prefers to puncture in the fourth lumbar space and with the patient seated and bending forward. An ordinary exploring syringe from 8 to 10 cm. long serves the purpose well, and from 10 to 60 or 80 c.cm. were withdrawn, according to the nature of the case, and whether the fluid was taken for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes. The seven cases are briefly reported. The fluid (25 c.cm.) from a case of tuberculous meningitis, when injected into a guinea-pig, caused its death from tuberculosis. After puncture the patient's headache lessened, subsultus ceased, and the pupils became more active to light. Staphylococci and Fraenkel's diplococcus were respectively found in other cases.—*British Medical Journal*.

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ACHYLIA GASTRICA.—Dr. A. Rose, of New York, in the *Post-Graduate* for April, gives this name to the condition here there is marked deficiency or absence of gastric juice and pepsin. There is water-brash, and often vomiting in these cases. The stomach is often distended. In the diagnosis of these cases a chemical examination of the contents of the stomach is necessary. In these cases there is sometimes diarrhœa, sometimes constipation. The absence of gastric juice may be caused by phthisis, pernicious anæmia, cachexia senilis, or cancer of the stomach. In the treatment of these cases medicines per os are of very doubtful value. The stomach should be washed out in many cases. Faradization of the stomach is helpful in some. Large enemata of olive oil, 1 pint at a time, at longer and longer intervals help materially to regulate the bowels. This remedy was suggested by Dr. Fleiner, of Heidelberg. Farinaceous food, oatmeal, rice, farina, a little meat well masticated, koumyss are the main articles of diet. In these cases when the stomach is fasting it is empty; the contents show during digestion neutral or weak acid reaction. There are found large amounts of mucus, and there is no fermentation.