

That price will probably be maintained for some time, as the demand for it is very great.

Cocaine hydrochlorate may be prepared from leaves (coca erythroxyton) or from the fluid extract. Dr. Squibb prefers the latter. His formula is as follows: Mix fluid extract of coca with one-fourth its weight of calcined magnesia and evaporate on a sand bath to dryness. Powder the powder and exhaust carefully with ether. Evaporate the ethereal solution to dryness. The remains will be cocaine alkaloid with a small quantity of greenish oil, from which it may be separated by water: Very dilute hydrochloric acid is carefully added until the solution is neutral. The salt may be crystalized or water may be added to make a four per cent. solution.

It is claimed that the new anæsthetic is a sure cure for acute nasal catarrh. Should this claim hold good, it alone will be sufficient to immortalize the fortunate discoverer, Dr. Koller, of Vienna.

Selections.

DIET IN DYSPEPSIA OF LIQUIDS.

BY HENRI HUCHARD,

Physician to the Hospital Bichat.

(From the *Bulletin General de Therapeutique.*)

In a paper read before the Therapeutic Society of Paris, Huchard, while admitting the advantages of the milk treatment of certain stomachal troubles, such as cancer, ulcer, gastritis, dyspepsia due to alcohol and strongly spiced food, points out that in certain conditions of the stomach the milk treatment is not merely not beneficial but often is positively injurious. Gubler pointed out in his *Commentaires* that milk was contraindicated in torpid dyspepsia, and in patients predisposed to catarrhal or serous diarrhœa. M. Debove, in a communication to the Hospital Medical Society, on the treatment of simple ulcer of the stomach, drew attention to the production or augmentation of dilations of the stomach by the ingestion of large quantities of milk. M. Noël Gueneau de Mussy, in his recent treatise on typhoid fever, insisted particularly that one of the causes of indigestibility of this liquid was that the patients partook of it in too large quantities at a time,

neglecting the caution of M. Clémenceau, to take it in divided doses. "I now make public my insuccess and my therapeutic errors, and in citing very briefly some of the cases in which the ingestion, not only of milk, but also of any kind of fluid produced increase of gastric trouble, I wish to refer with eulogy to a treatment long ago proposed under the name of *dry diet* in the dyspepsia of liquids, so well described by Chomel."

A patient, aged 48, arthritic, suffered more than ten years from various painful gastric troubles. From time to time, without apparent cause, he is attacked paroxysmally with acute pains in the epigastric region, with coated tongue, nausea, bilious vomiting, obstinate constipation, and almost absolute impossibility of taking proper nourishment. Aids to digestion of all kinds, bitters, milk diet prescribed by several physicians consulted, had no other effect than to aggravate the troubles, which were in no way due, as was at first supposed, to the presence of biliary calculi. After three months of various treatments without benefit, when I observed that the ingestion of a few spoonfuls of any fluid, broth, soup, or milk brought on attacks of pain with oppression and tendency to syncope, I thought of cutting off almost all fluid diet, and quickly at the end of a week all the obstinate symptoms disappeared, to return only after infraction even in the slightest degree of the dietary rigorously prescribed. Some time after a patient, also arthritic and subject to gravel, who formerly had slightly suffered from flatulent dyspepsia and dilated stomach, returned from Contrexéville, where he had been obliged to swallow large quantities of fluid with very marked aggravation of his gastric troubles. I wrongly put him on milk diet, but it was not well borne, not because it determined diarrhœa, but because the ingestion of any fluid brought on uneasiness and fulness of the stomach and frequent eructations. The patient could not bear any fluid food, he grew thinner and weaker day by day, but when placed on dry regimen the dyspeptic troubles in a few weeks rapidly vanished.

A young woman, three months pregnant, with very frequent vomiting, presented rather serious symptoms, characterized after each meal