

To obtain the first result, those parts of the skin which are affected already by erysipelas are rubbed, by means of the finger or a little sponge, every three hours with a mixture of carbolic acid and oil of turpentine (1:10), but very gently; the skin of the neighbourhood, however, more energetically. The whole district rubbed is then covered with a soft linen compress moistened with concentrated lead-water (1:100), and finally the parts affected already by the disease are again covered, outside of this compress, by thicker linen cloths dipped in ice-water and lightly wrung out, or by a bladder of ice. The external enveloping compresses with ice-water are changed as often as they begin to grow warm. Internally, the patient takes lemonade or a weak solution of chlorate of potassa, to alleviate the accompanying stomatopharyngitis and prevent diphtheritic depositions, and every one or two hours a teaspoonful of strong wine, to support the action of the heart.

This treatment has been very effective during the last few months in the epidemic which occurred in Posen, Germany. He has never seen a relapse when this treatment has been pursued.

#### CHLORATE OF POTASH IN BOWEL COMPLAINTS.

Dr. Gates, of Louisiana, extols the efficacy of chlorate of potash in diarrhoea, especially that occurring as a sequela of measles. He writes:—My own child, aged 18 months, after an attack of measles, suffered from dysentery, passages occurring every hour or two, which persisted for a month without any relief from the accepted remedies. In my extremity I mentioned the case to a medical friend who advised me to use chlorate of potash in four grain doses every two hours; accordingly I prescribed: R Potass. chlor. gr. xxxij, syr. simp. ℥ss., aq. pur. ℥ss., and gave as directed. After the third dose the character of the discharges was completely changed, the blood and mucus disappeared, and the child made a rapid recovery.

"Measles being epidemic, I saw several other cases with identical symptoms following desquamation. In every case the sufferers were relieved by using this simple remedy. Meeting with success, I determined to give it a fair trial in cases which West, in his "Diseases of Children," calls inflammatory diarrhoea. It fully and completely answered my expectations. I have also used it in the dysentery of adults, though with no such decided success as in the above-mentioned cases; though I have reason to suppose that in two cases, in which my faith was shaken, the directions were not followed with any attempt at regularity."

#### OXIDE OF ZINC IN THE DIARRHOEA OF INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Dr. Brakenridge, of Edinburgh, whose experience is very extensive, and who has employed all the remedies in use for infantile diarrhoea, gives the preference to the oxide of zinc. He says: 1. Diarrhoea in these cases arises from a condition of debility and great susceptibility of the nervous centres, which prevent proper secretion from the alimentary tract. 2. It is intimately associated with convulsions and convul-

sive affections. 3. It is accompanied by congestion of the secreting surface of the digesting passages.

To meet these conditions requires a remedy which is at once tonic, antispasmodic and astringent. These properties he believes to be united in the oxide of zinc. It is a tonic for the nervous system, just as iron is for the blood. As an antispasmodic and astringent it has already gained a reputation founded on clinical experience. He has employed it in twelve cases, four of them girls and eight of them boys, and varying in age from four months to one and a half years. The form was usually that of the powder, but it was also given in a solution of gum-arabic, with a slight addition of glycerine. The general results observed were—1. That it moderated the diarrhoea quickly. 2. That vomiting stopped. 3. That digestion improved. 4. That intestinal hæmorrhage was frequently arrested. 5. Teething was favored rather than otherwise. 6. That even where no change was made in diet, and the other conditions remained the same, the treatment progressed favorably. 7. When, however, diet and regimen were carefully regulated, success was more rapid and decided.—*Med. Times and Gazette*.

#### SHORT NOTES.

##### URETHRAL SUPPOSITORIES IN GONORRHOEA AND STRICTURE.

Henry E. Woodbury, M.D., Washington, D.C. (*Phila. Med. Times*), uses successfully in the treatment of gonorrhoea and stricture the following remedial agents: Tannin, persulphate of iron, nitrate of silver, and morphia. He considers nitrate of silver and morphia the most effectual from his experience in about 20 cases. The grounds upon which he advocates the use of suppositories in these diseases are as follows: By their use in gonorrhoea the remedy is kept longer in contact with the unduly active mucous membrane than by any other method; while in stricture their lubricating qualities exercise a soothing effect upon the irritated surface, and prevent too rapid healing of the parts.

##### SUBSTITUTES FOR QUININE.

Dr. Angelo Crociani was led to try various succedanea of quinine, on account of the high price of the drug, its adulterations, and chiefly the repugnance evinced to it by the inhabitants of Val-di-Chinona, where he practises. After various trials, the drugs which succeeded best, and which he now advocates, were iodine and sulphur. According to Dr. Crociani, the success of both these drugs is due not to any antiperiodic action, but to their antizymotic properties, thereby admitting the influence of morbid ferments and the presence of cryptogamic organisms in paludal fever. Both drugs were successful in cases where quinine and arsenic had failed. The author relates four cases of tertian ague in which sulphur succeeded, and eight cases cured by the use of iodine. The sulphur was generally administered as follows: an ounce divided into four doses, to be taken during apyretic intervals. In one case two doses were given the same evening; the following

day the fit was much less intense, and as soon as it was over, the patient took the two remaining doses, and entirely recovered. As to the iodine, after previous purging, ninety drops of the tincture with three ounces and a half of strong infusion of quassia, were given, one-half the day of the fever and previous to the fit, the other half on the following morning.

##### EAR-COUGH.

Dr. J. Solis Cohen, of Philadelphia, (*Phila. Med. Times*), has a patient subject to ear-cough—a peculiar spasmodic cough produced by touching any part of the external auditory meatus. Recently he gave him a dose of twenty grains of quinine, which induced a cough exactly similar to the ear-cough from external irritation. This cough continued until the influence of quinine on the system subsided.

##### CROUP.

Dr. W. W. Parker, of Richmond, Va., relates a case of croup in which inhalations of lime proved efficacious. The most dense vapor is not at all unpleasant, and can be borne as well as the atmosphere of a heated room.

##### ERGOT IN PULMONARY HÆMORRHAGE.

Dr. Finny reports a case (read before the Medical Society of the College of Physicians of Dublin,) in which the liquid extract of ergot in twenty minim doses checked pulmonary hæmorrhage, when oil of turpentine and gallic acid had failed.

##### NOCTURNAL INCONTINENCE OF URINE CURED BY CIRCUMCISION.

Dr. Joseph Bell communicated to the Med. Chir. Soc. of Edinburgh, a case of nocturnal incontinence of urine which had persisted for seven years, in which he had performed circumcision a month previously, since which the incontinence had entirely ceased.—*Edin. Med. Journal*.

##### PULVIS GLYCYRRHIZÆ COMPOSITUS.

The compound liquorice powder is a preparation of the Prussian *Pharmacopœia* especially useful in simple constipation resulting from atony of the bowel. It is composed of the following constituents, so prepared as to form when incorporated an almost impalpable powder: Senna leaves, ℥vj.; liquorice root, ℥vj.; fenel seed, ℥iij.; sulphur, ℥iij.; refined sugar, ℥xvij. The usual dose is a small teaspoonful at bedtime, in water, forming an agreeable draught.

##### A NEW ANTISEPTIC.

Amykoseptin, or amycoseptin is an antiseptic consisting in a solution of borax combined with decoction of cloves. The author of a paper in *Allg. Med. Cent. Zeit.*; No. 46, 1873; thus describes its action:—1. Boric acid prevents bacteria from penetrating into the tissues; and thus prevents rot. 2. It destroys bacteria which may already exist in the tissues, and thus arrests rot. 3. It speedily kills true infusoria. 4. It is often a deadly poison for articulated animals and their larvae. 5. It does not prevent the development of mildew. 6. The decoction of cloves only possesses, in a limited degree, the property of preventing the development of mildew, but it certainly delays the process, and renders it difficult.