

CARBOLIC ACID A CURE FOR TOOTHACHE.

[A Correspondent writes to the *Lancet* as follows :]

Among the many virtues of carbolic acid is that of giving relief from the pain of toothache. I have tried it in a great many cases, and with invariable success. To one drachm of collodium flexile (B.P. 1867) add two drachms of Calvert's carbolic acid, full strength. A gelatinous mass is precipitated. A small portion of this precipitate inserted into the cavity of an aching tooth gives immediate relief. It may be kept in the cavity by means of a bit of lint dipped in the collodium.—*Lancet*, Feb. 22, 1868, p. 275.

PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN AS A REMEDY IN DIABETES.

By DR. JOHN DAY, Geelong, Australia.

[The patient was 36 years of age, and was progressively getting worse, passing as much as five quarts of highly saccharine urine during each night.]

While pondering over the hopeless condition of my patient, it occurred to me that if I could oxidise the sugar that had been taken up in the general circulation, it would be an approach towards the natural mode of elimination by the lungs. With this object in view, I gave half-drachm doses of ethereal solution of peroxide of hydrogen mixed in an ounce of distilled water, three times a day.

To enable me fully to explain the theory on which I base my treatment, would occupy far more of your valuable space than I could justly claim. Schonbein believes that peroxide of hydrogen is $H O$ antozone, and that the blood-corpuscles possess, in a very high degree, the property of decomposing it, and of transforming its antozone into ozone, without, in themselves, undergoing any very rapid change; and he further believes that ozone is the only condition in which oxygen possesses any active combining properties. Assuming these views to be correct, we should possess in ethereal solution of peroxide of hydrogen, which would be rapidly absorbed, a ready means of destroying, by oxidation, the sugar in the blood, and of also maintaining the animal heat, which, in the treatment of diabetes, is an important consideration. I may observe, that what is sold by Mr. Robbins as Dr. Richardson's ozonic ether is, in reality, a solution of peroxide of hydrogen in ether. This may be readily proved by adding a few drops of it to a weak solution of chromic acid: a beautiful blue colour will be the result, caused by the formation of perchromic acid. This preparation is in every respect similar to that which I have been using, and in the therapeutical effects of which I have now had some years' experience.