

does certainly not increase the latter's energy and power of resistance, but diminishes them, like all other poisons.

The reported success is evidently more due to nature than to the infliction of seventy or a hundred fresh ulcers. Relapses seem to be frequent.

A mercurial treatment gives so satisfactory results that it needs no substitute in a dangerous innovation. Syphilization may be tried, but only in desperate cases, where the rational methods prove of no avail.

Prophylactically, vaccination might be compared with syphilization. But the cow-pox prevents small-pox—the lesser evil the greater, and to a certain degree only, while it is claimed for syphilization that a disease cures itself, if implanted over again in the same organism, and protects the organism against a renewed influence of itself. The inoculation of variola-matter has never been thought of as a cure for variola.

Another analogy would be the capability to swallow large doses of opium without direct injury. Here, however, no immunity against the effects of the poison is claimed. Several ounces may result in death, where several drams are taken with impunity.

That syphilization carries the patient rapidly through all stages of the disease to a point where the danger of further infection ceases is an unproved hypothesis. Pyæmia may follow; pain, fever, impaired nutrition certainly do, and it is probably of some importance to the patient, whether to have one scar in some part easily covered, or to have hundreds over the chest and extremities.

Notwithstanding all these objections, judicious trials with syphilization are justifiable, until its value is fully established.—*Zeitschr. d. Gesellsch. d. Aerzte zu Wien.*

PAINLESS DRAWING OF TEETH.—The Druggists' Circular, to effect this purpose, says: Rub the gums with the following solution by means of a bit of lint or cotton steeped in it:—℞ Chloroform $\frac{5}{8}$ iss., Tinct. Aconite, Spts. Vini aa $\frac{3}{4}$ j, Morph. Sulph. gr. viij. M.—*St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.*—*Journal of Materia Medica.*

MEDICINE.

M. TROUSSEAU'S VIEWS ON DIPHTHERIA.

M. TROUSSEAU has devoted some space in his recently published volume (*Clinique Médicale de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Paris*, par A. Trousseau. Paris, 1861) of Clinical Lectures to the consideration of diphtheria; some short notice of his opinions may not be without interest for our readers. To use his own words:—

“Diphtheria is *par excellence* a specific malady, contagious in its nature, manifesting itself both on the mucous membranes and on the skin, presenting the same characters in either locality. Diphtheria has in truth this in common with certain specific and contagious maladies, as the eruptive fevers and syphilis, but with this difference nevertheless, that it only affects the external integument on the condition that it be denuded of its epidermal covering.” (P. 212.)

The most common form of the disease is that which specially favours the pharynx and the air-passages. Known to and described by authors of past ages, it has served as the type for the *Treatise on Diphthérie* of M. Bretonneau.

The disease shows itself occasionally in the malignant form, destroying life by general blood-poisoning, after the manner of septic and pestilential maladies.

Pharyngeal or Simple Diphtheria is met with in all climates, at all seasons; sparing no period of life, it yet most frequently attacks young subjects. M. Trousseau gives this description.