

ods of treatment which act directly upon the stomach.

Intestinal antiseptics has for its object the prevention of the development of toxic substances in the digestive tube, and is accomplished by pharmaceutical means, by laxatives, by washing out the stomach and intestines, and by properly chosen regimen. The following measures should be observed :

1. The patient should take one of the following cachets at each mealtime :

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Salicylate of bismuth . . . | } āā 10 grm. |
| Magnesia . . . . .          |              |
| Bicarbonate of soda . . .   |              |

For 30 cachets.

If the trouble is very far advanced :

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Salicylate of bismuth . . . | } āā 10 grm. |
| Naphthol (a) . . . . .      |              |
| Magnesia . . . . .          |              |
| Bicarbonate of soda . . .   |              |

For 30 cachets.

2. At bedtime the patient should take a dessert-spoonful of the following in half a glassful of water :

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Senna pods (treated with alcohol) in powder . . . . . | } āā 6 grm. |
| Sublimed sulphur . . . . .                            |             |
| Powdered fennel . . . . .                             | } āā 3 grm. |
| Powdered anisum stellatum . . . . .                   |             |
| Pulverized cream of tartar . . . . .                  |             |
| Powdered licorice . . . . .                           | 8 grm.      |
| Powdered sugar . . . . .                              | 25 grm.     |

When the powder does not produce the desired effect, or is not well borne, the patient should take a liqueur glassful of Rubinat or Villacabras water every morning, or else a dose of podophyllin or cascara. If there is considerable dilatation the stomach should be washed out ; and if it contains putrid matter, disinfecting solutions should be employed, such as boric acid, 10-1000 or naphthol (a), 1-1000.

3. The cold douche should be applied to the spinal column every day for not longer than 15 seconds (if the patient is a lady, the feet should be douched with hot water, and after the douche dry friction should be vigorously employed).

4. Open-air walks and muscular exercises are favorable.

The following dietetic points should be carefully observed : At least seven hours should intervene between the two principal meals, which should be eaten the first at 10 or 11 a.m., the second at 7 p.m. ; neither food nor drink should be taken between meals ; diet should consist chiefly of eggs (underdone), purées of potatoes, haricots, lentils, revalésière, racahout, lactated farina, panada, rice, maccaroni, green vegetables, well cooked (purées of carrots, turnips or peas,

Julienne soup, cooked salads, spinach), finally, stewed fruits, except grapes or strawberries ; game, fish, shell fish, cheese, and all foods that are too liquid, particularly thin soups, should be excluded ; bread should be toasted ; as for drinks, nothing should be taken except 300 grm. of a mixture of white wine and water, but no effervescing drinks, undiluted wine, and no liquors should be taken. It may be remarked that wine of cinchona, such as is frequently given as a tonic to patients with dilatation of the stomach, is more injurious than useful.

The mechanical methods of treatment referred to include Glénard's pelvic bandage—a broad elastic bandage which is strapped over the abdomen—massage, and electricity.—*Jour. Am. Med. Assoc.*

### THE TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY BY BIBORATE OF SODA.

I can fully endorse the statements of Drs. Risien Russell and James Taylor in their interesting paper which appeared in *The Lancet* of the 17th inst., with regard to the value of borax in the treatment of epilepsy, and I agree with them as to the necessity for emphasizing this fact ; for although here and there in medical literature it is recorded that fits have been cured by borax, the virtues of this remedy have for the most part been either ignored or under-estimated. Yet I think there can be no doubt that when the bromides, administered either alone or in conjunction with belladonna, fail to relieve convulsive seizures, biborate of soda is the most likely drug to be of service. And I would also point out that boracic acid, so far as I have tried it, appears to be quite as efficacious as its alkaline salt. Its value is strikingly illustrated by the following case which was under my care at the Clinical Hospital about two years ago. It was that of a girl aged six years, who had been subject to fits for a few weeks which the mother attributed to a fall on the head. The child attended as an out-patient for some time ; but, as the fits appeared to be uninfluenced by the administration of bromide of potassium, she was taken into the hospital in order that the effects of treatment might be more accurately observed. During the first five days she took, every four hours, a mixture containing five grains of bromide of potassium and five minims of tincture of belladonna ; but on each day she had from twelve to twenty attacks of general convulsions with loss of consciousness. The doses of bromide and belladonna were then increased to ten grains and seven minims respectively ; but as the frequency of the fits remained unaltered, she was ordered to take five grains of boric acid in water every four hours. During the next four days the number of fits fell