

influenced by the oil 5. The oil should be administered for a considerable time; and, if a good effect results, it should be suspended awhile, to be again resumed. Thus, it may be given for two months, and then suspended for a fortnight, resumed for a month, and re-suspended for a fortnight again, so as gradually to reduce the length of the intervals during which it is given. 6. The clear, slightly smelling, nearly tasteless oil, is less efficacious than the brown, thick, strong oil.—*Bull. de Therapeutique.*

*On Linseed Oil in Hæmorrhoids.* By M. VAN RYN.—M. Van Ryn believes, that, in general, surgical treatment is too hastily resorted to in this affection, and he wishes to bring under the notice of the profession a remedy he has found of great efficacy during twenty-five years. It consists in the administration of two ounces of fresh linseed oil morning and evening; and so rapid is the amendment generally, that the remedy is seldom continued longer than a week. Sometimes the stools are somewhat increased in quantity, but neither vomiting nor any other ill effect is produced. The only precaution the while, is the abstinence from alcoholic drinks and too stimulating a diet.—*L'Union Medicale.*

*On the Application of Alum in Acute Tonsillitis.* By M. MERTENS.—Alum has been frequently recommended as a good application in acute tonsillitis, and M. Mertens suggests a plan for its employment, in young children, far more efficacious than insufflation. Having previously moistened the pulp of the index finger, and covered it with alum, he carries this down to the inner surface of the tonsil and there applies it. He places the ring and middle finger between the lips of the child; and when it opens its mouth, advances them to the base of the tongue, and is thus enabled easily to reach the tonsil with the index finger.

The same plan may be resorted to by adults themselves, in chronic tonsillitis for example; and they should be instructed first to pass the finger down to the tonsil, and observe, by the saliva which adheres to it, what part comes in contact with the tonsil, and then to cover

that with the alum; and it is surprising with what facility the tonsil, and the tonsil alone, can be touched.—*Gazette Medicale.*

*On the Action of Bromide of Potassium.* By M. HUETTE.—M. Huette has been induced, by reason of the analogy in composition which this substance offers to iodide of potassium, and by the recommendation by a few practitioners of its therapeutical employment, to try a series of experiments with it. These have resulted in complete disappointment; but during his investigation he discovered two effects producible by the bromide, which, if confirmed on farther trials, may admit of useful application. One of these is the power it possesses, even when given in small doses, of inducing a state of insensibility of the palate and pharynx, which, commencing on the second day, continues during the whole course of treatment. It is so complete, that the finger may be carried to the base of the tongue, touch the amygdalæ and posterior nares, or tickle the uvula, without inducing any effort at vomiting or deglutition whatever. This local anæsthesia seems deserving of investigation, as being preferable to that derivable from chloroform, when tedious and delicate operations about the mouth and throat are in question. Still other investigations are required; for on the one hand, the insensibility might not subsist under the action of a cutting instrument, and on the other perhaps the glottis itself is involved in a like insensibility, and would not indicate the passage of blood into the trachea.

The bromide possesses also remarkable power in inducing torpidity of the genital organs. A patient tormented by a vivid imagination, and subject to frequent consequent pollutions, found himself quite freed from his infirmity after having taken 15 grains per diem for three days; while some patients to whom the drug was administered reproached the author with this effect, which however passes off in a few days after the discontinuance of the medicine. The medicine thus seems indicated in chordee, in relieving which camphor and opium so often fail, as also in certain forms of spermatorrhœa.—*Gaz. Med.*