

dose, twenty to fifty drops, daily, in three doses. Dr. Weir Mitchell, of Philadelphia, gives as much as a drachm at a time.

Specimens have appeared in the market which are not only innocent of any acquaintance with a dialyzing membrane, but seem little else than diluted solution of perchloride of iron.—*Chem. and Drug.*

THE ACTION OF SODIUM SALICYLATE ON THE HEART.—It has been supposed by probably the majority of practitioners that this remedy has a tendency to weaken the heart's action. Liebermeister's well-known views, with reference to the dangers of giving it to a patient whose heart is weak, as for instance, in typhoid fever, were generally accepted as correct. Prof. Maragliano, of Genoa, has, however, recently investigated the subject, and the results of his carefully conducted experiments, show conclusively that the salicylate has no depressing effect on the heart's action, on the contrary the effect is to strengthen it.

PROF. ELLENBERGER (*Archiv für Veterinärwissen*) speaks very highly of painting the skin with impermeable applications for parasitic diseases. He has used collodion, tolu in ether, rubber in chloroform, etc. When the part is covered with these mixtures, the parasites, animal and vegetable, alike, soon die. He has experimented with dogs and other animals, and finds that they can stand from one-half to one-third of the body covered in this way.

PELLETIERINE is an excellent remedy if given with certain precautions. If it fails, it is because the purgative is given too late. M. Tenneson is in the habit of administering a purgative half an hour before the vermifuge is given, so that the purgative may act upon the worm intoxicated by the pelletierine. The tænia is then always passed entire. M. Laboulbène proceeds in exactly this way, and a long time ago recommended the practice.—*L'Un. Méd.*

SYPHILIS AS A CAUSE OF DEMENTIA PARALYTICA.—H. Obersteiner, in *Monat f. P., Dermatol.*, concludes, after a review of 1,000 cases that syphilis is an important factor in the production of this condition. He divided the patients into groups according to age, and found a varying percentage of from 4.1 to 54, with a syphilitic history. In 26% of one group of 73, syphilis and dementia were co-existent. He thinks that when syphilis acts as a cause the dementia appears early in life by about the thirty-fifth year.

Surgery.

HYDATID CYST OF THE PROSTATE.

M. Tillaux reported to the *Société de Chirurgie* a case of a man, aged 43, suffering from complete retention of urine. The bladder could be entered easily by means of a rubber catheter, but not by a metallic instrument. There was pain in the loin, towards the sacrum and lower portion of the spine. The rectal touch revealed the existence of an enlarged prostate, filling the rectum, and crowding the urethra towards the pubis. The tumour was perfectly regular, smooth, and fluctuating. The diagnosis, based upon the miserable appearance of the man, and an old cicatrix of cold abscess upon the thorax, was cold abscess of the right lobe of the prostate. As the patient continued to suffer, lost appetite, and flesh, and strength, the abscess was opened from the rectum, and gave issue to a slightly coloured fluid, and which at first was thought to be urine, but it had not the urinous odour, and the bladder was subsequently emptied, per urethram, of perfectly limpid urine; showing that the bladder had not been punctured. The tumour was then a cyst of the prostate, and a microscopic examination revealed the presence of hydatid hooklets. Two days afterwards, at stool, a considerable mass of hydatids was expelled, per rectum. Cases of hydatid cysts of the prostate are exceed-