

"Except the medicines whose effects are established by strict observation, such as the evacuants, diuretics, sialogogues, &c., &c., and to what does our knowledge of the rest amount? Into what errors in the use and denomination of medicines have we not been led? When the theory of obstruction was in vogue, deobstruents were created. Incisives sprung up when the theory of the thickening of the blood became the favourite idea. The expressions *dilutants* and *alterants*, and the ideas which were attached to them, arose at the same epoch. When it was necessary to obtund acridity, inviscants, incrassants, &c., were created. Identical means have often had different names, according to the manner in which they were supposed to act, deobstruant with one, relaxant with another, refrigerant with a third, the same medicament has been employed in turn, with different and even opposite views, so true is it that the human mind marches at hazard where the vagueness of mere opinion guides it."—*Bichat Anatomie Generale*.

CHLORHYDRATE OF TRIMETHYLAMIN IN RHEUMATIC FEVER.—A new successful instance of the above has been communicated to the Therapeutical Society of Paris by Dr. Martineau. When called to the patient he found that the elbow had, since the morning, become red, enlarged, and painful; skin hot; pulse 90. Ten grains of the drug were administered. The next day a great improvement was noted. The pain in the elbow had entirely disappeared, and the pulse had fallen from 90 to 65. No crisis or cardiac complication had occurred. The same treatment had been equally successful in a similar attack a year previously.

Dr. John Friend wrote the History of Medicine during his confinement in the Tower in 1675. Friend, like most others of his day, was generally mellow after dinner. He was once sent for in this state to a family of consequence; but the family not choosing to trust to his prescription, sent for Dr. Mead, who came, and, after looking at what Friend had written, took the opportunity of paying him a very high compliment. "Pon my word," said Mead, "if Dr. Friend wrote this when he was drunk, he prescribes better than I can do when sober."—*Pettigrew's Biography*.

"The son of Henry I., King of England, having been attacked with small-pox, his physician, a skillful man, if there ever was one, ordered with all convenient ceremony that the young prince be enveloped in scarlet, that every thing about him be red, the hangings of his chamber and the clothes of his servants. This arrangement cured him so well, says John of Gaddesden, that not a single trace of the disease was left on his face. We see that John of Gaddesden had a presentiment of Homoeopathy."—*Friend's History of Medicine*.

ABORTIVE TREATMENT OF BOILS.—The *Cincinnati Lancet and Observer* has a note from Dr. C. B. Hall, stating that the following, applied to boils with a camel-hair pencil or feather, gives great relief in a very short time: Tincture of arnica flowers, 1 drachm; tannic acid, half a drachm; powdered acacia, half a drachm. The inflamed surface, and a little beyond all around, should be painted with the medicine every fifteen minutes, or as fast as it dries, till a good thick coating covers the part. The throbbing, tensive pain, and the intense tenderness will be promptly relieved; the redness will subside; the smooth, shining integument will shrink and become wrinkled, and comfort will succeed torment. If the boil be in the first stage, it will disappear without sloughing. If sloughs have already formed, it will be quickly separated, and the cure will be soon complete. The preparation should be used as soon as prepared.

TREATMENT OF ZONA BY COLLODION AND MORPHIA.—Dr. Bourdon, Hôpital la Charité, after having tried a great many local means for treating the above disease, and checking the intense pain, has definitively adopted the following plan:—Without opening the vesicles he paints all the diseased surface with a combination of collodion and morphia—collodion one ounce, morphia eight grains. The mixture must be put on pretty thickly. The pain ceases from the second day, and at the end of seven or eight days, when the layer of collodion is removed, all the vesicles have disappeared, and there remains only a slight local redness.

APPLICATION FOR BURNS.—M. Lebigot recommends the following mixture as having been very successful:—Cape aloes, four ounces; water, ten ounces; alcohol (90°), three ounces. The ingredients are to be melted together in a china plate over a slow fire, allowed to cool, and then filtered; after which three more ounces of alcohol are to be added. It is then ready for use. A tablespoonful of the mixture mixed with a teaspoonful of acetate of lead and twenty tablespoonfuls of water constitutes an excellent remedy. It is to be applied morning and evening on the burnt parts.—*Lancet*.

ACUTE ARTICULAR RHEUMATISM.—At the Charity Hospital, New York, the following is in use as a local application:—

R.—Tinct. opii, ʒi;  
Spiritus chloroformi, ʒiss;  
Linimenti saponis, ad Oi.—M.

This liniment is applied freely to the joints and immediately covered with cotton and oiled silk. The relief from pain afforded by this application has been gratifying.—*New York Medical Record*.