

Amongst local applications in laryngeal phthisis, he says: "Lactic acid occupies a most prominent position. The part affected should be painted with a 25 to 75 per cent. solution, or even with pure lactic acid. Of 34 cases thus treated, 25 improved; in 18 of these, both subjective and objective symptoms became less marked; in the other seven, the power of swallowing increased, hence the general condition of the patient became better. The unpleasant burning sensation produced by lactic acid may in many cases be prevented by painting the part previously with cocaine. In addition to this medication, direct surgical treatment must also be employed, consisting either of deep incision or scraping. After the operation, the lactic applications should be continued.—*Therap. Monat.*

STRYCHNINE IN DELIRIUM TREMENS

Large doses of strychnine are being used in delirium tremens and alcoholism, with a success that renders the promoters of the methods enthusiastic (*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*). The originator, Luton, of Rheims, gives as high as a twelfth of a grain two or three times a day by mouth or subcutaneously. Dujardin-Beaumez reports uniformly good results from the practice. No toxic effects are produced, but a marked benefit ensues. The insomnia, agitation and delirium severally disappear. Sleep was in some instances induced, after all other hypnotics had failed. The "why and wherefore" of this new method of combatting alcoholic delirium is thus explained by Dr. Ramos, of Brazil: "I believe with M. Luton that in chronic alcoholism there is inertia of the excito-motor properties of the spinal cord, which enables the patient to tolerate large doses of strychnine. In these cases the strychnine has a substitutive action on the nerve centres, antagonizing the excitant action of the alcohol."

IRRIGATION OF THE PERITONEAL CAVITY.

Considerable difference of opinion exists among surgeons as to the advisability of using solutions containing various disinfectants for washing out the peritoneal cavity, in view of the fact that numerous deaths have been recorded as due, in all probability, to the use of such agents as corrosive sublimate, carbolic acid, &c. The absorbent powers of the peritoneum are well recognized, and account for the accidents which have followed the injections of solutions containing poisonous substances. So great is this absorbent power that the effects of the intra-peritoneal injection of a saline solution are equivalent to a veritable transfusion of blood. It has been remarked, however, that there is a

limit to the amount of fluid which finds its way into the circulation by this means, and a point is soon reached after which no more is absorbed. Moreover, if a certain quantity of saline solution be introduced directly into the circulation, the absorbent power of the peritoneum is diminished *pari passu*, and if the quantity be considerable the peritoneum exudes, instead of the contrary. The accuracy of this observation has been verified by injecting poisonous solutions into the peritoneal cavity at a time when its absorbent powers have been overcome, and are, for the time being, in abeyance. No absorption of the poison took place, and no symptom of intoxication followed. A series of experiments recently carried out in this direction show that, after being irrigated for a certain period of time, the peritoneum ceases to absorb, and poisonous substances fail to produce any effect. One is tempted to ask whether this fact might not be turned to useful account in operations involving that structure, by permitting the use of certain antiseptics the absorption of which would be attended with danger.—*Medical Press and Circular.*

ARTERIAL CHANGES IN PHTHISIS.

The morbid changes in the arterial coats have recently been studied in sixteen cases of phthisis by Dr. N. Sh. Ippa, of St. Petersburg. In all the cases some at least of the arteries were affected, the coronaries of the heart invariably so. The coats which were found to have undergone morbid change were the intima and the middle coat. Connective tissue was found in the intima of arteries where it does not in the normal condition exist at all—as for example, in the brachial, femoral, and coronary arteries. This is due to an inflammation of the coat, which has been described by Dr. R. Thomas as "diffused and nodose chronic fibrous endarteritis." In arteries where there is connective tissue in the intima, its amount was found to be very materially increased. The middle coat was affected in a somewhat similar manner, the muscular elements being atrophied and connective tissue being formed. The vessels presenting the most extensive morbid changes were the coronaries, and those least affected were the brachial, femoral and more particularly the pulmonary arteries.—*Lancet.*

COLORED PAPER FOR SCHOOL BOOKS.

W. S. Higgins, M.D., Champaign, Ill., says: Some six or seven years ago I gave you my theory of the cause of adolescent headache. Claiming to be the first to discard the old theory of its being caused by mental exertion, I then recommended the use of smoked colored glasses. Here in Champaign we have from 400 to 600 students in the State University of Illinois every year. Now, it is not uncommon to see a