

## GUAIAIACUM IN SORE THROAT.

Dr. Frikzinger, in the *Philadelphia Reporter*, commends guaiacum in all forms of sore throat. He says:—

By contact guaiacum has the quality of causing the viscid secretions to become more consistent, and thus facilitate their removal, either by expulsive efforts of the patient or by gargles. Although this primary action locally is most unquestionably highly beneficial, it is owing to its secondary physiological effect upon the engorged capillaries, ramifying in the body of the gland, that the resolution is immediately accomplished. It is unquestionably owing to these peculiar properties of coagulative astringency locally, and the tonic action upon the walls of the over-distended capillaries, giving them force to expel the superabundant blood they contain, that gives guaiacum its specific virtues in curing quinsy.

As there is thirst and fever, and dryness and burning of the throat, the addition of nitre and potas. chlor. will meet the indications, and will modify the formula so as to be more agreeable for the patient. The following is a combination that has been used quite extensively for several years, and will be found as agreeable to take as any:—

R. Potass. chlor., 3j;  
Spts. æth. nit., 3iv;  
Tr. guaiac. 3vj;  
Syr. aurant. cort., 3vj.

Sig.—A teaspoonful every two hours, in water.

This should be taken in about a teaspoonful of water, or a sufficient quantity to allow the warming and constricting effect of the guaiac to be felt in the act of swallowing, and it is desirable that this should be done slowly. In case the bowels should move too freely the dose should be diminished, and as the disease ameliorates it should be administered at longer intervals.

If there is permanent enlargement, of not too long standing, the application of a solution of tannin in tincture of iodine and glycerine, applied to the gland, with a course of guaiacum internally, will prove of good service.

## HYOSCYAMINE.

Dr. H. Clifford Gill, in the *London Practitioner*, thus sums up his experience with hyoscyamine:—

"1. That a noisy, violent, dangerous, and troublesome lunatic can easily and certainly be rendered calm for some hours, and probably though not certainly, unless the dose be increased, be sent into a profound sleep lasting many hours. 2. That I have never seen any ill consequences follow the administration of hyoscyamine. 3. That the drug is most useful in acute delirious mania, in the various forms of remittent mania, and it is said also in the congestive (?) stage of G. P. 5. That in melancholia, and where there is much depression with brain irritation, little or no good is gained, and it is in

these cases, I am inclined to believe, that great dilatation of pupil is met with.

"Many doctors in general practice must frequently be called to cases of acute mania in their early stages, when it is that extreme violence in a private house is so fraught with danger both to the friends as well as to the patient. In such cases I think great benefit would be derived by the administration of a full dose of hyoscyamine; and even if, as is most likely the case, the attack is not cut short, yet the patient is calmed and sleeps quietly until other steps are taken for his after treatment. So, again, many patients suffering from dementia, who are for the most part harmless, and who live with their friends, are now and then liable to attacks of acute brain irritation and become very troublesome, noisy, violent, and dirty. In such as these I think much benefit will be found from this drug given at first in a full dose, three-eighths or three-quarters of a grain, and continued afterward in one-sixteenth to one-eighth of a grain dose. As a suggestion it might be quite worth trying in delirium tremens."

## CARBOLATE OF SODA IN WHOOPING-COUGH.

M. Pernot (*Lyon Medicale*, Sept. 23, 1877,) considers that he has discovered a specific for this troublesome affection in "phénate de soude," and gives details of cases in which, after other means had completely failed, he was able, by the use of it, to effect a complete cure in from ten to fourteen days. He places about 40 grammes of the crude salt in a porcelain capsule, and heats it over a spirit lamp so as to disengage carbolic vapours, the child being kept in the vapour a short time at first, and a longer time as he becomes more accustomed to it. In the most rebellious cases he has not required to use the treatment more than three times a day, and in most cases it has only been necessary to use it night and morning. He discusses the mode of preparation of carbolic acid and its salts, and ascribes the curative properties of the phenate of soda to the tarry compounds which it contains. "My observations," he says, "are now numerous; they, for the most part, resemble each other, and, speaking generally, we may sum up the results in the following words: 1st. There is a notable diminution in the number of 'kinks' after two to ten days' treatment. 2nd. The respiration is less painful, less anxious. 3rd. The 'kinks' are of shorter duration. 4th. There is less vomiting, possibly because the 'kinks' are shorter. 5th. Finally, the most stubborn cases, if I may so express myself, cease to advance from the commencement of the treatment, then diminish in intensity, little by little, and afterwards more rapidly."—*Glasgow Med. Journal*, Jan., 1878.