

surface may be given to the flooring by planing after laying down. The advantages of this flooring, which only requires an even bed on which to rest, are said to be the following :

1. Dampness from below, and its consequences, rot, is hereby prevented.
2. Floors may be cleaned quickly and with the least amount of water, insuring rapid drying.
3. Vermin cannot accumulate in the joints.
4. Unhealthful exhalations from the soil cannot penetrate into living rooms. Asphalt being impermeable to damp, rooms become perfectly healthful, even if they are not vaulted underneath.

In building with several stories, as in hospitals, the vitiated air of the lower rooms cannot ascend, an object which it has hitherto not been possible to attain by any other means known.

5. The layer of asphalt will also prevent the spreading of fire from one floor to another in case of conflagration.

The flooring here described has been laid in the numerous casements of the forts around Metz, to the satisfaction of the authorities. The cost is about twenty-five cents per square foot. This estimate, somewhat high, would be much lower in districts where oak and labor are cheaper, and the distances from places of construction less.—*American Gaslight Journal*.—*Sanitarian*.

### A NEW WAY OF IRRIGATING THE NASAL CAVITIES.

Dr. E. Pins (*Wr. Med. Woch.* ; *Obl. f. Ther.*) has for some time endeavored to think of a method by which it would be possible to force fluids into the nasal cavities under a not too strong pressure, and to attain a shutting off of the upper pharynx or post-nasal cavities without external aid, with at the same time the least liability to danger by the entrance of the fluid into the ear or the other cavities opening into the nose. Observing the fact that in strong expiration with the mouth closed, the soft palat completely shuts off the the nasal cavity, he made use of it in constructing an apparatus, which consists of a bottle with perforated cork, through which two glass tubes of unequal length pass. The longer tube, which passes to the bottom of the bottle, is furnished at its outer end with an olive tip which fits into the nose ; a mouth-piece is attached to the shorter tube, through which the patient blows while the other tube is in the nose.

The bottle being filled with fluid, the expiratory pressure is sufficient to force one to two quarts of fluid through the nose in a short time, but is at no time so great, according to the author, as to involve the danger of forcing the fluid into the extra-nasal cavities. This did not

take place in 400 applications of this method among thirty patients of the author.

The method finds its contra-indications in diseased conditions of the respiratory and circulatory organs.—*Weekly Med. Review*.

### SULPHONAL IN DIABETES.

Casarelli (*Annales de Thérapeutique Médico-Chirurgicales*, September, 1890) thus summarizes his observations: Sulphonal exerts a favorable influence upon diabetes, gradually lessening the quantity of sugar. The amelioration is evident after the remedy has been used for several days in the daily dose of one to two grammes (fifteen to thirty grains). The administration of sulphonal, even if very prolonged, is followed by no evil consequences. In the dose of three grammes, long continued, it produces a condition of lethargy, and sometimes delirium. But, if intermitted for a day, or if the dose be diminished, these manifestations cease. If the drug be abandoned the sugar soon reappears. Casarelli has also made use of antipyrine, but the results were less decided and satisfactory.—*Lancet-Clinic*.

### INDIGESTION IN COLITIS OF INFANTS.

Dr. James M. French states (*Jour. Am. Med. Ass.*) that in cases of colitis of infants over-feeding should be avoided and cold drinks prohibited. Digestion may be facilitated by the administration of an active pepsin or pancreatine ; and the addition of a small quantity of calomel tends to arrest abnormal fermentation. He has rarely employed any medicines other than those contained in the following prescriptions :

R. Pepsini, gr. xij to xxiv  
Hydrargyri chlor. mitis. gr. ss to j  
Sacch. lactis. q. s.

M. ft. chartas No. xii.

Sig. One powder every three hours.

Or, in cases in which the intestinal digestion appears to be at fault :

R. Extracti pancreatis ʒss to j  
Hydrarg. chlor. mitis., gr. ss to j  
Sacch. lactis. q. s.

M. ft. chart. No. xii.

Sig. One powder every three hours.

It is better to give explicit directions that the powders be given immediately before or after nursing, and not oftener than once in three hours, as it is in this way possible to more completely rectify the error of too frequent feeding than by any other means, for our instructions as to the giving of medicine are more likely to be obeyed than are those pertaining to the correct manner of feeding the infant, a subject on which every mother has her own ideas.