

NEW DOMESTIC REMEDIES.

TOOTH-ACHE.—Cautichou, becoming very smooth and viscous by the action of fire, has been proposed by Dr. Rollis as an excellent remedy for filling hollow teeth, and alleviating the tooth-ache proceeding from that defect. A piece of cautichou is to be put on a wire, then melted at the flame of a candle, and pressed, while warm, into the hollow tooth, and the pain will be removed instantly. The cavity of the tooth should first be cleaned out with a piece of cotton. In consequence of the viscosity and adhesiveness of the cautichou, the air is completely prevented from coming into contact with the denuded nerve, and thus the cause of the tooth-ache is destroyed.—*Buchner's Repertorium for Pharmacie.*

HOOPING-COUGH.—Dr. Cajetian Wachtl, of Vienna, treated nine children, suffering from hooping-cough, with cochineal, as recommended by certain English physicians. The remedy was administered in all stages of the disease; and its efficacy was so instantaneous and constant, that, notwithstanding the paucity of cases, Dr. Wachtl feels authorised to regard cochineal as a specific in hooping-cough. The following is his manner of exhibiting the remedy:—Take of cochineal, one scruple; sugar, one ounce. Dissolve in six ounces of warm water. The dose is three teaspoonfuls in the twenty-four hours. The solution ought not to be kept longer than thirty-six or forty-eight hours, because after that time it assumes a brown hue, and a sour taste, which render it unfit for use.

HOARSENESS.—One drachm of freshly scraped horseradish root, to be infused with four ounces of water, in a close vessel, for two hours, and made into a syrup, with double its weight in vinegar, is an improved remedy for hoarseness; a teaspoonful has often proved effectual; a few teaspoonfuls, it is said, have never been known to fail in removing hoarseness.

TO STOP A FIT OF COUGHING.—A correspondent of *The London Medical Gazette* states, that to close the nostrils with the thumb and finger during respiration, leaving them free during inhalation, will relieve a fit of coughing in a short time. Nervous coughing may be prevented by rubbing pretty smartly with the point of the finger the edge of the lips, the eyelids, or the tip of the nose, when the first desire to cough is felt.

SHORT SIGHT.—This infirmity of vision, a complaint which is rather common among the higher classes of society in all countries, is not unfrequently cured in Russia by the following plan:—The patient is placed with the back part of the head fixed against a wall, and a desk is put before him with a book on it, at such a distance that he may easily read. After a week or two have elapsed, the desk is moved further off, thus gradually increasing the distance until it has been removed to the full extent of ordinary vision, always allowing the patient to acquire the power of reading before the distance is increased.

APOPLEXY.—It is recommended that persons of an apoplectic tendency should not use high bedsteads, unless they are protected by a rail, which may be so contrived as to be moveable at pleasure; for, when they make any movement, such as sitting up to cough or spit, and overbalance themselves, the sudden perpendicular descent causes a violent rush of blood to the head, which immediately extinguishes life.

HYDROPHOBIA.—A copious draught of vinegar, at morning, noon, and night, is said to be a cure for hydrophobia.

TO MAKE LEECHES BITE.—The leech which it is intended to apply is to be thrown into a saucer containing fresh beer, and is to be left there till it begins to be quite lively. When it has moved about in the vessel for a few moments, it is to be quickly taken out and applied. This method will rarely disappoint expectation; and even dull leeches, and those which have been used not long before, will do their duty. It will be seen with astonishment how quickly they bite.—*Medical Gazette.*—From a return made by the Custom-house at Grenoble for the first six months of the present year, it appears that 5,660,800 leeches have been imported into France.

BURNS.—It is stated by the *Medical Times*, that a Mr. Peppercorne has cured several cases of severe burns of the hand by the application of a single layer of lint soaked in a saturated solution of carbonate of soda. Mr. Peppercorne conceives that, besides acting as a direct sedative upon the nervous structure of the skin, it may possibly relieve pain by neutralising the acidulous quality of the perspiration as it passes off through the irritated skin. Whether the proposed remedy should have the effect here ascribed to it or not, it is, at all events, worthy of a trial, as the solution can be readily procured, and as readily applied, without the possibility of doing any harm. The carbonate of soda is one of the ingredients of soda and Seidlitz powders; it is also used in many culinary operations; and scarcely any one need be at a loss to obtain it.

CORNS.—The following remedy is simple and infallible, and costs nothing in pain or money. Soak the foot affected in warm water for half an hour or so, until the corn is somewhat softened—then pare it down as much as possible, and put a little common soap, say on going to bed, which should be confined to the part affected by a rag or cotton. In two or three days a complete cure will be effected. A new plaster, of Indian rubber, has been found very efficacious, by bearing off pressure from corns.

BUNION.—Mr. Humpage recommends that the bunion be kept constantly covered with lint dipped in warm water, this being well defended also by oiled silk. The best mode of applying the latter is to cut a strip about half an inch in width, and three or four inches long, turning it round the affected member. The lint should be changed night and morning, and any hardened cuticle should be gradually peeled off. When matters are improved, the continued application of the silk will not be necessary, but the oiled silk should be constantly worn, to prevent a return of the disturbance.

CHOLERA MORBUS OR DYSENTERY.—Take 3d. worth of isinglass, and simmer it down in about a pint of water on a slow fire, till it is completely dissolved; when this is done, add a little milk and sugar to make it palatable; give the patient half a cupful immediately, and a spoonful every hour afterwards.

RHEUMATISM.—Slight cases of rheumatism are cured in a few days by feeding on asparagus; and more chronic cases are much relieved especially if the patient avoid all acids, whether in food or beverage. The Jerusalem artichoke has also a similar effect in relieving rheumatism.

MEDICAL EFFECTS OF HOT WATER.—In bruises hot water is most efficacious, both by means of insertion and fomentation; in removing pain, and totally preventing discolouration and stiffness. It has the same effect after a blow. It should be applied as quickly as possible, and as hot as it can be borne. Insertion in hot water will cure that troublesome and very painful thing called a witalow. The efficacy of hot water in preventing the ill effects of fatigue is too well known to require notice.

IMPURE AIR may be detected by the following simple and satisfactory experiment by Dr. Reid. Inject a spoonful of lime into a beer-bottle with water, and place it where suspicion is attached to the quality of the atmosphere, when the presence of impurity will be tested by the appearance on the surface of a white and copious incrustation.

TEST FOR EPSOM SALTS AND OXALIC ACID.—To the suspected mixture, add a few drops of common black writing-ink; if the colour remains, it is Epsom salts; but if the ink in a short time turn red, it is oxalic acid.

APPETITE.—The following novel explanation of the causes of renewed appetite is from Professor Liebig's new work on Animal Chemistry. "The cooling of the body, by whatever cause it may be produced, increases the amount of food necessary. The mere exposure to the open air in a carriage, or on the deck of a ship, by increasing radiation and vapourisation, increases the loss of heat, and compels us to eat more than usual. The same is true of those who are accustomed to drink large quantities of cold water, which is given off at the temperature of the body, 98° 5'. It increases the appetite, and persons of weak constitution find it necessary, by continued exercise, to supply to the system the oxygen required to restore the heat abstracted by the cold water. Loud and long-continued speaking, the crying of infants, moist air, all exert a decided and appreciable influence on the amount of food which is taken."

DRUNKENNESS.—The following singular means of curing habitual drunkenness is employed by a Russian physician, Scriber, of Braze-Litewski:—It consists in confining the drunkard in a room, and furnishing him, at discretion, with brandy diluted with two-thirds water; as much wine, beer, and coffee as he desires, but containing one-third of brandy: all the food, the bread, meat, &c., are steeped in brandy and water. The poor wretch is continually drunk and dort. On the fifth day of this regimen, he has an extreme disgust for brandy; he earnestly requests other diet, but the desire must not be yielded to, until the poor wretch no longer desires to eat or drink: he is then certainly cured of his penchant for drunkenness. He acquires such a disgust for brandy, that he is ready to vomit at the very sight of it.

TO RENDER ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF ACCIDENT, &c.—We avail ourselves of the observations of an eminent surgeon of this city to make known to our readers the best course to be adopted on finding a sufferer on the road having a fractured or dislocated leg, or in other cases of emergency. Let him be kept on the ground until a coach, door, or gate can be procured, for in raising him up he may die from faintness or loss of blood; when a gate, hurdle, or board is procured, place it alongside him; cover it with a bed or straw, and pillows, and let men convey him home or to a neighbouring house. Send a discreet person to his surgeon and to his home who can state the nature of the accident. On no account put him into a vehicle; let him be borne home by men, for the motion of a carriage might cause splintered bones to fatally wound blood-vessels in contact with them.

Fits. If a person fall in a fit, let him remain on the ground provided his face be pale, for should it be fainting or temporary suspension of the heart's action, you may cause death by raising him upright, or bleeding; but if the face be red or dark-coloured, raise him on his seat, throw cold water on his head immediately, and send for a surgeon and get's vein opened, or fatal pressure on the brain may ensue.

In hanging or drowning, expose the chest as quickly as possible, and throw the coldest water you can procure plentifully over it, whilst the body is kept in a sitting position.

Children in Convulsions. Deluge the head with cold water and put the feet into warm water, till medical assistance can be fetched.

Poison. Give an emetic of a tea-spoonful of mustard flour in a tea-cupful of warm water every ten minutes, till vomiting ensue or medical assistance can be procured.

Burns or Scalds. Let the burnt part be bathed in a mixture of equal parts of turpentine and olive, or linseed oil, with a feather, till the pain abates; then dress it with common cerate, and defend it from the air.

By a proper application of these simple rules life might often be saved, whilst it is well known to medical gentlemen that what is often kindly though injudiciously done, hastens death.

Worester.

E. A. S.

MANAGEMENT OF BLISTERS.—Dr. Robertson gives the following directions for the management of blisters, as the result of nearly seventeen years' experience: the blistering plaster should be spread thinly on paper or linen, not sprinkled over with powdered cantharides on the surface; but instead thereof, a few drops of olive oil rubbed on it and allowed to remain. Used in this way, he says, the blister acts speedily, and without causing irritation; with him it never produces strangury. He objects to a blister spread upon leather, because the leather, by the heat of many parts of the body, becomes dry, partially crisp, and with difficulty adheres to the skin, and thereby prevents it from acting well and generally over the whole part intended to be blistered. The blister should be spread thinly, because the outer surface only is efficient; and when it is used in a thick layer, it becomes irregular, and consequently partial in its operation. The powdered cantharides should not be sprinkled on it, because they will not add to its efficiency, as they act but slightly on the skin; but the active principle of the Spanish fly being soluble in olive oil, affords a reason for the use of the oil on the surface of the blister. Dr. Robertson concludes by remarking, that every one can make this blister for himself, of the commonest materials at a very trifling expense, and, if this be any recommendation, it will act three, four, or six times, if uninjured, and the oil gently renewed on its surface.

Death caused by prussic acid, says a German paper, is only apparent; life is immediately restored by pouring acetate potash and common salt, dissolved in water, on the head and spine.

MUSHROOMS.—According to Chausavel, the application of vinegar, in cases of poisoning by mushrooms, is inadvisable, because the active principles of these plants are dissolved by it, and the parts, already inflamed by the action of the poison, are thereby still more irritated. The application of salt and ether is attended with the same disadvantage; and emetic tartar also can only be of use provided the poison has not been already absorbed. Tannin, however, which forms with many vegetable poisons an insoluble combination, is likewise an antidote for poisonous mushrooms; and Chausavel observed the best effects in several cases of poisoning by poisonous mushrooms from the application of a weak decoction of gall-nuts (one ounce of gall-nuts to one measure of water, and a sufficient quantity of mullage), or of a solution of tannin (pure tannin from 36 to 40 grains in one measure of water).—Mr. W. H. White, a botanist, has investigated the cause of the deleterious effects of some species of mushrooms on the human frame in some countries, and not in others. In England, for example, only three species are edible; whilst in Russia, forty species, almost every variety, are used as articles of food, and many, as delicacies, constantly at the tables of the rich; and the peasants, for some months, live almost exclusively on mushrooms. The kinds there eaten are considered here, and have been proved to be, by many fatal cases, poisonous. Mr. White believes it to be not dependent upon soil or climate, but principally on the cooking; much salt being used, and care being taken not to boil two species together.

ACTION OF WEAK ACIDS ON ELECTRO-PLATED VESSELS.—Mr. Warrington asserts that copper vessels, such as saucepans, extract-pans, &c., silvered by the electrolytic process, are acted upon by weak acids, as lemon-juice or vinegar, if allowed to remain in them for a short time. This, he says, must arise from the deposited silver being so porous as to allow the acids to permeate its substance, and the action is most likely assisted by the formation of a galvanic current.

