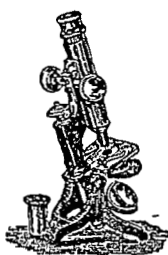


## Medical Matters.

### ZINCATED GELATINE.



This is made by mixing ten parts, by weight, of oxide of zinc with an equal quantity of gelatine and forty parts of glycerine and forty of distilled water. It is a white, jelly-like mass, which readily liquefies on the application of heat, and is strongly recommended by a Russian Surgeon as a dressing for chronic ulcers of the leg, especially in out-patient practice where frequent applications cannot be made. The leg is thoroughly cleaned, the ulcers are disinfected with a solution of corrosive sublimate (1 in 1,000), dried with cotton wool and sprinkled over with some antiseptic powder. Zincated gelatine is then applied to the wound, and a bandage carefully and firmly put on, the gelatine being poured upon each turn, thus forming an impermeable covering which can be left for at least a week without further attention. It is stated that excellent results have been obtained by this treatment without compelling the patient to lie up. And not only is this of great importance to the working classes, but the cost of the application is comparatively little.

### WHOOPIING COUGH.

A foreign physician strongly recommends the application of a pledget of cotton wool soaked in a 1 in 1,000 solution of perchloride of mercury, to the pharynx, once or twice a day, as a most successful treatment for whooping cough. The pledget is placed against the pharynx and then brushed over the tonsils, the uvula and soft palate. In severe cases, the application is made every day; in ordinary cases, every other day was found sufficient; and the observer reports that after four or five applications, the cure of the disease is usually complete. The principle of the treatment of this complaint by antiseptics is now generally adopted, so that the method now recommended consists, so far as novelty is concerned, chiefly in the local distribution of the remedy.

### SCURVY IN INFANTS.

In this country this is an affection comparatively rarely met with, but judging from a discussion which recently took place at the New York Academy of Medicine, it would seem that scurvy is by no means uncommon in the United States amongst young children. At any rate, no less than 106 cases were mentioned as having come under the direct observation of the various speakers in this

debate. The curious point is that the disease appears to chiefly affect the children of the rich, this being attributed to the fact that the majority of such children are fed either upon proprietary foods, or upon sterilized milk or cream. Of 33 cases in which the exact diet was known it was found that no less than 63 per cent. had been fed upon proprietary food and condensed milk. The symptoms which seemed to have been most commonly presented were anæmia, pain upon movement, swelling and tenderness of the lower limbs, spongy and bleeding gums, with hæmorrhages under the periosteum of the bones. The disease, when not treated on proper principles, is very fatal, but is rapidly cured by a diet of fresh milk, beef juice and orange juice. The great difficulty in diagnosis is to distinguish these cases from those of acute rickets, with which of course scurvy has many features in common.

### THE MILK TEETH.

There is considerable divergence of opinion amongst dentists and doctors as to the treatment which should be adopted for those of the temporary teeth which become decayed. Many dentists refuse to draw such teeth in the belief that to do so would interfere with the proper maturation of the permanent successors; while others, again, hold that it is a mistake and sheer waste of time to stop a carious milk tooth. One thing, at any rate, is beyond dispute, and that is that it would be well if all children had their teeth periodically inspected, not only to detect disease, but so far as possible to prevent it. For example, many rickety children show in their milk teeth the softness and lack of lime constituent characteristic of their disease. If this were discovered sufficiently early, and the necessary medicinal means adopted to overcome the want in the constitution, the child's permanent teeth would certainly be better formed and be less prone to decay. And what this implies to its future health and comfort, there can be little need to expatiate upon. As a good general rule, every case must be decided for itself. If the jaw be small, it is usually well to keep the first teeth as long as possible to permit the permanent set to come into their places without overcrowding, and besides this, those children who have suffered from premature decay are usually those in whom weakness of digestion is a prominent symptom, and in whom, therefore, the tendency to dyspepsia would be increased, and might easily become chronic, if the benefits of mastication were removed at an early age.

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