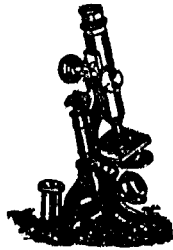


## Medical Matters.

### MENTHYL VALERIANATE IN SEA SICKNESS.



The *New York and Philadelphia Medical Journal* says: Menthyl valerianate has been found to be an excellent prophylactic against sea sickness. Dr. K. Kopke, in a treatise on sea sickness, recommends this preparation on the grounds that, though not absolutely infallible, it yet rarely fails to act. In the early stages of the sickness it is best taken in ten to fifteen drops on a lump of sugar. If this dose should not have the desired effect, it may be repeated after half an hour, with observation of the strictest diet.

### HÆMOPTYSIS.

Dr. Guy H. Fitzgerald, in *Cleveland Medical Journal*, says that the best treatment of hæmoptysis requires:—(1) Absolute physical rest; (2) mental quiet and relief from fear and anxiety; (3) morphine and atropine in sufficient dosage to insure both the preceding; (4) control of cough, fever, and pleuritic pain, and careful attention to diet; (5) suggestive measures, as ice-caps over the heart, salt and cracked ice by mouth, &c.; (6) free use of bromides and nerve sedatives in the nervous; (7) nitrites or veratrum when high blood-pressure persists; (8) care in not overdrugging or in placing reliance on specifics, as ergot or adrenalin; (9) hypodermoclysis with normal saline when indicated.

### THE CHANNELS OF INFECTION IN TUBERCULOSIS.

The subject selected for the Weber-Parkes Prize Essay for 1903 was the channels of infection in tuberculosis, together with the conditions, original or acquired, which render the different tissues vulnerable. Dr. Hugh Walsham, says the *British Medical Journal*, devotes the greater part of the essay which won the prize to the channels of infection. One of the conditions of the prize is that the essay shall be based on original observation, and in this volume Dr. Walsham has collected and discussed some of the results of his work as Pathologist to the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, as well as observations specially carried out. The result is a valuable contribution to the study of one of the important problems connected with tuberculosis. The essay was illustrated by 280

microscopical preparations, many of which are reproduced in coloured plates of great interest. Dr. Walsham is evidently a master in the technique of this branch of pathological examination, and the beautiful clearness of the plates forms a distinctive feature of the volume in which the essay has been published. The channels of infection discussed are five in number. Hereditary transmission, though possible by the ovum, is rare. The lymphatic vessels, the blood vessels, and the epithelial channels are the most frequent channels of transmission in the human subject, and infection may be conveyed by inoculation into the skin or tissues. In considering transmission by lymphatic vessels much attention is given to infection through the tonsils, and the following conclusions are formulated:—That the tonsils are very frequently affected with tuberculous disease, which may be primary in the tonsil or secondary to chronic pulmonary tuberculosis; that when the tonsils are tuberculous the cervical glands receiving the lymphatics from these organs are also frequently affected with tubercle, as may be also the follicular glands at the base of the tongue. The tonsils may be affected from without or through the blood stream in acute miliary tuberculosis. The conditions, original or acquired, that render the tissues vulnerable are discussed, and a bibliography referring to tuberculosis of the glands, tonsils, pharynx, and kidney, and the relation of heart disease to tuberculosis is appended. If this essay does not carry our knowledge of the actual channels by which infection in tuberculosis reaches the human body and is distributed within the body much further, it at least, says our contemporary, adds fresh facts in proof of already-recognised paths of infection, and summarises the present state of knowledge on this important subject judiciously and clearly. Dr. Walsham may be congratulated on a piece of good honest work well done.

### LUMBAGO.

In an article on this subject in the *Medical Annual*, Dr. Purves Stewart says that Dr. Gowers lays stress on the fact that the only nerve endings associated with the muscle spindles are the interstitial tissue between the muscle fibres, and are therefore peculiarly susceptible to the influence both of contraction and of tension in the muscle. The characteristic pain of lumbago occurs when the affected muscles are volun-

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