

Medical Matters.

A VERY THEORETICAL TREATMENT.



AN Italian physician has recently discovered a fact which may, perhaps, have some practical application in the future, although its bearing seems at present purely theoretical. He has proved that ordinary soda water, at a temperature of thirty-nine degrees Fahrenheit, will destroy the bacilli of cholera in three hours, and that of typhoid in four hours. The importance of the fact is doubtless great, but the difficulty of its application is considerable. It is obvious that if this fluid were injected into the rectum, or given by the mouth, even in a frozen condition, the temperature of the patient's body would elevate it to blood heat long before its destructive effect upon the bacilli could be obtained. An American contemporary, however, which is nothing if not ingenious, suggests that "all we have to do is to pack our typhoid patients in a tub of ice and salt"—that is to say, in a freezing mixture—and keep them there while they are allowed to drink soda water profusely. "Then," says our contemporary, "the bacilli would be killed and the patient cured." We imagine that our contemporary intended to reverse the order of the verbs, for it is fairly certain that the bacilli by such a treatment would be quite cured of the patient.

MEDICAL FEES IN RUSSIA.

IN this free and happy country, medical practitioners are permitted to charge as large fees as they please, or as small fees as they can get, and there is no recognised scale except in the case of Consultants—the old-fashioned minimum fee of one guinea. But, in Russia, a paternal government has recently determined to remove all doubts upon this subject; and it has, therefore, issued the following scale of fees for all practitioners. Patients are to be divided into three classes, the first of which includes capitalists, land owners, manufacturers, bankers, merchants, and superior Government officials. The fees for the first class have been fixed at five roubles (about 15s. 10d.), the fees for the second class at three roubles (about 9s. 6d.) and those for the third, which includes the

very poor, at thirty kopecks (about 11½d.). While eminent practitioners in England would, probably, strenuously object to visit one of our merchant princes for 15s. 10d., it is well known that the poorer classes in this country pay much less for excellent medical advice and treatment than their contemporaries in Russia are now ordered by the State to do.

CHOLERA.

THERE seems much reason to believe that a violent epidemic of cholera has been raging in both China and Japan. Comparatively few reports have been made in the daily press concerning this matter, but it is stated in an American contemporary—the *Charlotte Medical Journal*—that the fatality has been enormous, and that in Pekin there have been as many as fifteen hundred deaths a day from the disease. A characteristic fact is also added, that there was an incessant din maintained from the beating of gongs, which, it was believed by the natives, would be efficacious in frightening away the cholera microbe. After the war, and probably the famine fever which followed it, both Chinese and Japanese soldiers must have been in a condition ready to suffer from any infectious disease, with unusual fatality; a fact which probably accounts for the startling statements made by our contemporary.

TURPENTINE FOR HÆMORRHAGE.

OIL of turpentine has long been known to possess most valuable effects in controlling hæmorrhages; and in bleeding both from the lungs and from the kidneys it has often been given internally with much success. A recent application has proved it to be equally useful in another direction. In patients who suffered from profuse bleeding after the extraction of teeth, an application made from oil of turpentine controlled the hæmorrhage at once, after ordinary remedies had failed. And this fact, therefore, has been utilised in preparing a mouth-wash for patients suffering from hæmorrhage from the gums, especially in cases of scurvy. In these patients, it has been found that the use of such an application not only cured the local condition, but seemed also to effect an improvement in the general health—probably by the prevention of hæmorrhage from the gums which had previously weakened them.

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