

Medical Matters.

THE NEW PHOTOGRAPHY.



THE scientific world is, at present, deeply interested in the recent discovery by means of which photographs can be obtained in a manner which a few years ago would have been regarded as little short of miraculous, and the full possibilities of which are not yet realised. The photographs are taken by means of radiations from a Crooke's phosphorescent tube, actuated by an electric current of high pressure and periodicity. The result is that the bones inside the flesh of animals can be photographed with absolute definition; and metals inside closed wooden cupboards or cases are also shown. Such results would have appeared to our forefathers to be something closely resembling the "Black Art." And so far as medicine and surgery are concerned it is impossible at the present moment to say where the limitations of this new discovery may be placed. It has already been shown, for example, that by means of such a photograph the precise position of a bullet or of a piece of glass imbedded in the tissues can be shown, and that the character and position of a fractured bone is equally discernible through the flesh. It is more than probable that, as the process is improved, not only will diagnosis in all such cases be facilitated, but that methods of treatment, at present undreamt of, may be obtained.

CREASOTAL.

ONE of the greatest disadvantages of creasote has been that large doses, although most valuable in affections of the lungs, have set up chronic inflammation of the intestines. In order to obviate this drawback, a new compound in the shape of creasotal has been introduced. It is given in teaspoonful doses, if necessary, in milk, or wine, so as to cover the taste; it breaks up in the intestines into creasote and carbonic acid, and it has been found that although at first there may be some nausea, this soon passes off, if the use of the drug be continued. It seems to have an extraordinary power of improving the appetite, and very favourable effects upon the general health, improving the nutrition, in-

creasing the body weight, diminishing and deodorising the expectoration, and limiting the spread of the lung affection. It is probable, therefore, that the new drug will prove to be of much benefit in the treatment of exhausting diseases other than those associated with tubercular mischief.

IRON IN DIPHTHERIA.

ATTENTION has recently been called to the well-known usefulness of large doses of perchloride of iron in the treatment of diphtheria—a fact which is well known to all successful practitioners, but which, during the last few months, has been somewhat obscured by the widespread attention directed to the antitoxin treatment. The perchloride of iron is usually given in large doses at fairly frequent intervals, and is also applied by means of a brush locally to the larynx. For the same reason, it is usually administered in a mixture with glycerine because, by this means, some local action is also obtained as the liquid is being swallowed—the glycerine causing some of the drug to adhere to the inflamed surface. Its great drawback is, of course, the tendency to constipation which it produces, and which therefore has to be carefully obviated by appropriate treatment.

THYROID TABLOIDS FOR CRETINISM.

AN interesting case has just been recorded in Vienna, showing the effect of the thyroid treatment upon a woman aged thirty-six, who displayed the typical signs of sporadic cretinism. She had been for six years in the Asylum, had a large bilateral goitre, and was lethargic and imbecile. As a result of the treatment, the pulse was raised from 60 to 132 per minute, and the respirations became more frequent and deeper; the temperature was slightly raised, she began to lose flesh and appetite, and had nausea and vomiting. The specific gravity of the urine was increased; the size of the goitre was markedly diminished. She first became restless and irritable, and afterwards, when the doses of the tabloids were diminished, she became more lively and appeared to have more power of comprehension. There was free perspiration and marked tremors of the upper extremities. The effects, therefore, produced by the drug in this case were such as to encourage the belief that the treatment may possibly prove to be very beneficial in suitable cases of this disease.

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