

Medical Matters.**DIABETES.**

THE most recent method of treatment of this disease consists of the administration of thyroid glands; those taken from young sheep being employed. In a typical case, these were given steadily for some months, and with remarkable results; the dose given being about four grains every three hours, gradually increased to twelve grains every three hours. The fresh glands were used and made up into pills, in which form they kept well, and were administered. The effects were that the amount of urine rapidly fell to five pints a day, and the amount of sugar excreted diminished to one quarter of that previously passed, while the general health and strength improved to a corresponding degree. An interesting fact in connection with this case was that this improvement took place while the patient was taking an ordinary diet, but when the thyroid treatment was discontinued and a diabetic dietary prescribed, the sugar immediately increased, and the patient became worse. The treatment, however, is evidently palliative rather than curative, because, in each case recorded, so soon as the thyroids were discontinued the patient relapsed, and the quantity of sugar became almost as great as it was before the treatment was commenced. Just at present there seems to be a reaction in the medical world against the stringent diet which has hitherto been considered necessary for these patients. As a practical fact, some patients, who take just what they please to eat, assert that they feel better in health, and certainly do not seem materially worse in their disease, than when they were rightly dieted. The point is one which is receiving the greatest attention, and it may be that radical alterations in the treatment of Diabetic patients will shortly be accepted by the medical profession.

HAEMORRHOIDS.

ONE of the most common complaints to which poor humanity is liable is that to which the popular term of piles is given. The complaint is frequently overlooked, and for many reasons is still more frequently neglected, with the result in either case that it usually progresses from bad to worse, and finally requires operative measures for its cure. The varieties of piles

are many, but for all practical purposes they are usually described as internal or external, according as to whether they are within the rectum or outside it. As a general rule, the latter are more easily and safely dealt with, and operative measures for their cure are not followed by secondary troubles to anything like the same extent to which internal piles are liable. External piles are divided into (1) thrombotic; (2) external tag or tags of skin. The latter may become inflamed upon slight provocation, and when in this state constitute one of the most painful varieties. A permanent cure will usually necessitate the removal of the growth. Internal piles require a different plan of treatment. They may not cause much annoyance, except by protruding occasionally. Two dangers, however, confront every patient thus afflicted: hæmorrhage and strangulation of the tumour. The bleeding, even from a small pile may prove fatal, and strangulation of the pile mass by the sphincterani may cause sloughing, hæmorrhage, blood poisoning, or gangrene.

TURPENTINE.

This old fashioned remedy is largely employed abroad to check hæmorrhages. It is applied directly to the bleeding spot and has been used with most rapid effect by injection into the uterus in cases of post partum hæmorrhage, or in cases of bleeding from wounds and abscess cavities. The antiseptic properties of Turpentine are also being more utilised than was formerly the case in treatment of the infectious fevers. For example, on the Continent the drug is being administered internally in cases of Typhoid, and it is asserted that the progress of the disease is materially shortened and that its symptoms are markedly diminished in severity in consequence. There is nothing theoretically new in this, because, as soon as the bacterial nature of Typhoid was acknowledged, it became a rational method of treatment to flush out the intestines, as early and completely as possible, with some antiseptic fluid which might destroy the cause of the disease. The only difficulty is to persuade the patient to drink this remedy, which is rarely palatable, in sufficient quantities to effect the desired end. The one and great drawback of Turpentine is the powerful action which it exerts upon the kidneys and bladder, in some patients amounting to extreme pain and in others to the production of severe congestion and hæmorrhage from the organs which may pass on to the production of actual organic disease.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)