

**Medical Matters.****HOMMEL'S HÆMATOGEN.**

A PREPARATION which has been widely used on the Continent, for some years, but has been introduced into this country somewhat recently, is becoming well-known under the name of Hommel's Hæmatogen. It is a standard preparation in Germany, being patented as a pure solution of concentrated hæmoglobin dissolved in the purest glycerine. Being, therefore, derived from the most active constituent of the blood it is not surprising that it has been found to be a blood-forming tonic of the utmost value. In cases of anæmia, or chlorosis, the good effects of the medicine are shown almost at once, and the medical men who have used the preparation in this country describe it as exerting the most remarkable influence in the ordinary wasting diseases of children, whilst they find it equally valuable in adults recovering from pneumonia, or convalescing after infectious fevers. In fact, the testimony as to the value of this preparation is rapidly growing, with regard to all cases in which the bodily strength has been enfeebled, and in which a powerful restorative is required. Being a natural organic product derived from the blood of healthy bulls, and forming an essential constituent of the human body, it cannot be wondered at that it should prove so effective in cases of disease and bodily weakness. In fact, the only cause of surprise is that the use of the remedy should be so comparatively modern.

**CREOSOTE.**

THE following interesting summary of the uses of Creosote in pulmonary cases has recently been published. The best beechwood creosote can be given with benefit, in amounts varying from 120 to 240 minims daily, in cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. The drug is best administered in cod liver oil or in a spirituous solution, and in some cases the "creosote chamber" or oro-nasal inhaler may be ordered in addition with advantage. The dose should be small at first, but it can be rapidly increased to 40 minims three times daily for an adult. In three cases, 30 minims three times a day were well borne by children. Large doses

rarely cause any gastric disturbance; on the contrary, the appetite is frequently increased, symptoms of dyspepsia disappear, and cod liver oil is more easily assimilated. The cough, expectoration and night sweats are diminished, and the physical signs improved. Owing to its disinfectant action in the alimentary canal the drug probably diminishes the risk of tuberculous enteritis by auto-infection when patients swallow their sputa, but owing to the increased peristalsis, which is created by creosote, it is usually contraindicated in cases where the ulceration is already advanced. The drug does not tend to cause hæmoptysis, but rather to prevent its recurrence. Creosote does not irritate the normal mucous membrane of the genito-urinary tract. Owing to its extremely small cost pure creosote can be given to a much larger number of patients than the carbonates of creosote and guaiacol, which respectively cost four times and twelve times as much as the older drug.

**APPLES AS MEDICINE.**

AN American contemporary has been devoting its attention to this subject, and considers that the apple is somewhat neglected. The fruit is composed of vegetable fibre, albumen, sugar, gum, chlorophyll, malic acid, gallic acid, lime, and much water. Furthermore, the apple contains a larger percentage of phosphorus than any other fruit or vegetable. This phosphorus is admirably adapted for renewing the essential nervous matter, lethicin, of the brain and spinal cord. It is, perhaps, for the same reason, rarely understood, that old Scandinavian traditions represent the apple as the food of the gods, who, when they felt themselves to be growing feeble and infirm, resorted to this fruit for renewing their powers of mind and body. The acids of the apple are certainly of great use for men of sedentary habits, whose livers are sluggish in action, as they serve to eliminate from the body matters which, if retained, would make the brain heavy and dull, or bring about skin eruptions and other allied troubles. Some such experience must have led to the custom of taking apple sauce with roast pork, rich goose, and like dishes. The malic acid of ripe apples, either raw or cooked, will neutralise any excess of chalky matter engendered by eating too much meat. It is also the fact that such fresh fruit as the apple, the pear, and the plum, when taken ripe and without sugar, diminish acidity in the stomach, rather than provoke it.

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