

Medical Matters.**AIKEN'S HOOP IRON SPLINT.**

This excellent splint has not received the attention that it merits. The apparatus is simple of construction, being made from a band of flexible hoop iron, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches wide, which can readily be bent to the required shape. The splint is designed to extend around the point of the elbow, bent at a right angle, and along the posterior surface of the arm and forearm, the latter being supinated. The upper limb of the splint is curved over the shoulder, and extends down the front of the chest almost to the epigastrium. After it has been well padded and placed in position, the upper end is fixed by bands of strapping extending over the shoulder, and others horizontally around the chest. The fracture is "set," and extension is made on the arm by pressing the forearm downwards towards the splint; while this extension is maintained, the forearm is secured to the splint by strapping applied over an anterior moulded splint on the forearm; the latter can be made of gutta-percha, leather, or Gooch's splinting. If desirable, small splints may be adjusted around the seat of the fracture. The author states that the apparatus has been in general use in Canada for nearly twenty years, and claims the following advantages for it:—(1) It is suited for fractures in any part of the humerus. (2) It is the only splint which furnishes in itself the means of making effectual extension of the muscles of the arm. (3) It is cool, light, and affords ready means of examining the parts, and permits the direct application of evaporating lotion, etc. (4) In compound fractures, access is readily obtained to the wound. With these advantages it is somewhat surprising that Aiken's hoop iron splint is not more generally used in this country.

PIN IN THE ŒSOPHAGUS.

A RECENT case, reported in the medical press, gives a good description of the best method of dealing with such an accident. A baby swallowed a brass safety-pin, the head of which could be felt by the finger in the œsophagus. On seizing it with a long pair of curved forceps it could not be moved. The

pin was tightly grasped by the forceps, and the finger again passed down the passage, disclosing the fact that the pin was open; it was pushed down towards the stomach, disengaged, and withdrawn, the point being guarded by the finger.

CONVULSIONS IN INFANCY.

A valuable paper on this subject has recently been published. It is pointed out that convulsions in infancy are not so common as supposed outside the profession. The predisposing causes are nervous inheritance and rickets; the exciting causes may be local disease of the brain and its membranes; a venous engorgement or cerebral anæmia, uræmia, etc. Convulsions at the onset of pneumonia, or of acute specifics, the authors state, are not so common as usually supposed, their statistics showing that out of 42 cases in children under seven years, only two cases began with convulsions. Peripheral irritation, such as teething or bowel disturbances, are very common exciting causes, but are powerless to cause convulsions unless the child is rickety. Convulsions occurring in the course of lung diseases they regard as due to asphyxia, and consider this to be the cause of the convulsions so often seen in dying children. Apart from the usual treatment of loosening the clothing and the hot bath, the inhalation of chloroform or the rectal injection of a mixture of potassium bromide and chloral is recommended in severe cases.

INTRACTABLE DIARRHŒA OF WEANING.

THE mortality of infants in the first year of life has attracted so much attention that the mortality of the second year has passed almost unnoticed, yet this is considerable, and is often the result of weaning wrongly carried out or unskillfully directed. The child has vomiting and foetid, liquid or putty-like, motions; the abdomen may be tense, hard and painful, or soft and flabby, the liver is swollen, and cachexia and emaciation progress. In such cases even sterilized milk is injurious. Decoctions of starch of the cereals, albumen water, and malt are recommended. It is well also to excite the action of the skin by friction, and give some of the drugs commonly employed for such diarrhœa. Under this treatment, cases have been narrated which, before treatment, were going from bad to worse, and which, under this dieting, rapidly regained flesh and strength.

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