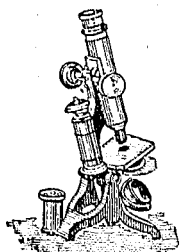


**Medical Matters.****THE USE OF LIGHT AS AN ANÆSTHETIC.**

An interesting article in the "Medicinischt Woche," by Prof. A. W. Minin, a celebrated Russian surgeon, deals with the use of blue electric light as an anæsthetic in surface operations instead of cocaine. The Professor has thus used the light in a number of cases with the best results, as the rays not only act perfectly as an anæsthetic, but also assist the healing process of the wounds. This blue electric light is also successfully employed in healing burns as well as the sores of various skin diseases.

**RHYTHMICAL TRACTION OF THE TONGUE AS A METHOD OF RESUSCITATION.**

Dr. Laborde, of the French Academy of Medicine, who has devoted much time to studying the methods of reducing infant mortality, has recently reported to the Academy two cases in which rhythmical traction of the tongue, of which he is the discoverer, was employed with complete success.

In the first case the child was born livid and apparently dead, but after rhythmical traction had been applied to the tongue for a quarter of an hour there was feeble respiration, and faint heart beats could be detected by the ear. After an hour's work the child woke as if from a profound slumber and gave signs of life.

In the second case the newly-born infant was also livid and apparently lifeless. All the usual methods of resuscitation were tried without success. Rhythmical traction on the tongue was then practised, and respiratory movements established after a prolonged period. Gratifying results have followed the adoption of this method, not only in the case of newly-born infants, but also in many cases of suicide by hanging, drowning, and asphyxiation. Even in cases where the jaws were so firmly fixed that they had to be forced open to get hold of the tongue, rhythmical traction was successfully employed, and life has sometimes been restored after three hours' effort. Dr. Laborde has now constructed an electric motor, by means of which mechanical traction on the tongue can be employed for hours.

**THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.**

Research into the best methods of treating cancer is being vigorously prosecuted in various parts of the world. Indeed, one now constantly finds reports upon this subject not only in the medical but also in the daily papers. Both in this country, in France, and also in America the X rays are being employed with some success, and Dr. Horace Manders has recently described in the "Lancet" his method of treating cancer patients by means of electric currents, the basis of this treatment being to stimulate the white cells which secrete substances which destroy the toxins generated in the blood by the cancer germs, and thus to expel the disease. The treatment, therefore, is not local but general. In the more superficial forms of cancer, such as epithelioma, the beneficial effect of the direct application of the Rontgen rays is undoubted. For internal operations a tube is used with a depression at the top. In this an insoluble chemical is placed which, when the current is passing it, will be driven into the body and exert a local action. It is stated that the employment of a particular shade of blue in the tubes produces the best effects. Professor Finsen has long passed the light which he uses through blue water to eliminate the red rays, but has not insisted upon one shade of blue. It is also believed that the reason why the treatment of disease by sunlight is most satisfactory when carried out in the early morning is because the effect of the blue rays is most potent at that time, so that it seems fairly certain that not only air and light but colour also is an important factor in the treatment of disease.

**AN EPIDEMIC IN NEW JERSEY.**

News comes from New York that there is an epidemic of cancer which is spreading through the State of New Jersey, and that the hospitals are full of patients suffering from this disease in a more or less severe form.

The Rontgen ray treatment is being tried, and the medical profession are interested as to the result, and are watching to see the proportion of the number of cases cured, for as the cases are so numerous it is possible to make a more correct calculation of the percentage than that made under ordinary circumstances and the scientific interest is therefore considerable. Not only epithelioma but also cases of cancer of the breast are being treated in this way.

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