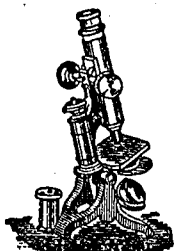


## Medical Matters.

### A REMEDY FOR BURNS.



Dr. Thierry, of the Paris Charity Hospital, has, it is stated, by happy chance made a discovery which may prove of immense benefit in the treatment of burns. Having been in the habit of using picric acid in solution as an antiseptic, he found one day, when some sealing-wax fell on his hand at a time when it was impregnated with this acid, that he scarcely felt any pain, and the same immunity showed itself when he let a burning match fall on his hand. He has since found that all pains from burning soon cease after bathing the part affected in a solution of this acid.

### THE PREVENTION OF MALARIA.

One of the special features of the past year in connection with the measures for the prevention of malaria, says the Livingstone College Year Book, has been the action of Sir William Macgregor. During his furlough from Africa, he has spent his time in studying the practical aspects of this question, visiting the Roman Campagna, and noting the systematic measures adopted by the Italian authorities for dealing with this disease. He also accompanied Major Ross to Ismailia, where the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine had been invited to report upon the sanitary condition of that town by the President of the Suez Canal Company. The result of these inquiries have been to show that no one method of dealing with malarial fever is sufficient by itself, but that the three chief principles of treatment need to be applied at the same time, viz.: (1) the extermination of the breeding places of mosquitoes, especially advocated by Major Ross; (2) mechanical protection from mosquitoes, advocated by the Italian authorities; and (3) the prophylactic use of quinine, of which Professor Koch has been the strongest advocate.

### DEFLECTED NASAL SEPTUM IN EPILEPSY.

The Medical Report of the Home for Epileptics, Maghull, near Liverpool, says:—“During the past year the part played in epilepsy by partial obstruction of the nasal passages has claimed attention through the

effect of treatment on a very inveterate case of epilepsy, which had marked obstruction of one nostril by reason of deflection of the nasal septum to the right side. The nostril was rendered patent by an operation, and the patient disappeared from observation. He called upon the operator in the autumn of 1902, about a year after, very much improved, with fewer attacks, and able to attend to a difficult and responsible business. The result was so remarkable that we examined the nostrils of thirty-seven chronic epileptic patients, and were surprised to find in the majority of them deflection of septum, overgrowth of turbinate bones, and more or less obstruction to the passage of air, with excess of mucus. We examined at the same time eleven non-epileptic patients, and the contrast in the freedom from obstruction of the air passage in them was in marked contrast to the epileptics. We operated upon several of the worst cases in December last, and we have sufficient evidence to show that the state of the nostril influences epilepsy, and that the restoration of the patency of the nasal passages should be secured as a preliminary to the treatment of all such cases.

“A study of the experience of many years shows conclusively that epilepsy is a disease that originates, develops, and matures somewhat slowly. When mature it is a most difficult disease to eradicate, and the attacks sometimes yield only to prolonged steady treatment. We have had unexpectedly good results in some old cases, but they are not to be hoped for. In the early stages, however, epilepsy is most amenable to judicious persistent treatment, but this treatment is, alas! rarely available. Everybody is alarmed by a patient having a first fit, and a course of treatment is recommended and is carried on for a week or two most zealously. No more attacks occur for perhaps many months. Vigilance is put to sleep, and advice as to habits, food, &c., is forgotten, and treatment is also forgotten. Then another attack occurs, and relief is again attained, and again efforts relax. By a repetition of such acts of great mismanagement and carelessness, the fits gradually become more and more frequent and severe, and the disease at last becomes so established that its cure is most difficult or even impossible to obtain. These are the cases that come to the Home, cases where relief by ordinary treatment has been despaired of, and the success we have in treating such cases is only an earnest of the success we would have if we only had these patients earlier.”

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