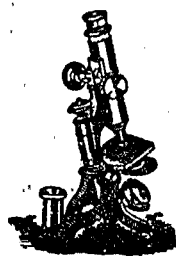


Medical Matters.

SOLUTION OF RENAL CALCULI.



Dr. Jaenicke recommends an infusion made from the leaves of the birch tree as a remedy to dissolve renal calculi, which he has used for some years. He reports in the *Zentral. für innere Med.* a case in which the diagnosis was confirmed by the Röntgen rays, and in which the symptoms totally disappeared. The calculi were passed in small pieces at first and later as gravel, the patient making a complete recovery. Dr. Jaenicke says the infusion must be used for about six months, the dose being a teaspoonful to a quart of water.

THE OATS CURE IN SEVERE CASES OF DIABETES MELLITUS.

At a recent meeting of naturalists at Carlsbad, the *Berliner klin. Wochenschr.* reports that Dr. von Noorden submitted a short report showing the good results occasionally obtained by putting diabetic patients on an oatmeal diet. A further experience with over 100 patients has served to confirm his previous conclusions. The oatmeal is boiled in water for a considerable length of time, with the addition of a little salt. While boiling, butter and some vegetable albumen, or, after cooling off, the beaten white of an egg, is added. The usual daily dose at the beginning of treatment is 250 grammes of oats, 100 grammes of albumen, 300 grammes of butter. The broth thus prepared is given every two hours. In addition, a little brandy or wine and a little strong black coffee are allowed.

After a longer or shorter course of this regimen, diabetic patients whose glycosuria had not ceased, even when they were put on a strict carbohydrate-free diet, soon stopped excreting sugar. The return to a mixed diet must be made cautiously and gradually, as acetonuria is apt to ensue. While this treatment is not to be promiscuously applied, and while some patients seem to be injured thereby, others are strikingly benefited, their tolerance for carbohydrates being markedly and permanently increased. Dr. Von Noorden confesses his inability as yet to furnish any criterion for distinguishing between those diabetics who will be benefited and those who will be harmed by the oats cure. On the whole, however, it is the severe cases that do best under it.

RUBBER GLOVES IN MILITARY SURGERY.

Dr. Von Manteufel, in *Roussky Vrach.*, advocates the use of rubber gloves in military surgery. These gloves are sterilised and each is placed in a linen bag, which is closed with a button flap, and bears a mark on one side showing where the thumb of the glove is placed. The surgical kit which is used in the field should be provided with half-a-dozen sterilised pairs of gloves packed in the manner described, and, in addition, each surgeon and orderly should carry with him linen bags with several pairs of gloves. In using these gloves the flap of the bag is opened, and the hand, previously covered with a little talcum, is introduced into the glove without removing it from the bag, the opposite hand being used outside of the bag for putting on the glove. When both gloves are put on, the bags are taken off, and the result is two perfectly sterile hands. The wearing of gloves in military surgery has a great many advantages which are obvious.

GOOD FEEDING IN INFANCY.

Dr. A. Belcham Keyes, in a lecture before the School of Domestic Arts and Sciences, Chicago, recently discussed the value of good feeding in infancy. 1. It lessens the number of cases and mortality from acute intestinal and infectious diseases. 2. It avoids the distressing condition known as English disease, or rickets, from which a large number of children die annually, and, if they survive the disease, are often deformed for life. 3. A large number of the cases of tuberculosis, especially of the bones, in young children are predisposed to the disease by the catarrhal conditions of the intestines, in which conditions they take into the circulation the bacillus of tuberculosis, for which the imperfect lining of the blood-vessels of the long bones makes a good resting-place, with its resultant chronic invalidism, and later frequent implication of the lungs, and death. 4. Proper infant feeding, even if these first three are escaped, is a necessity for the good health and, perhaps, even the formation of the character of the child.

It is much to be desired that teaching on this subject should be given to young mothers, if they have not been earlier taught the paramount importance of proper feeding. Any one with eyes to see has only to walk round a children's hospital to be impressed with the sad fact that many of the little patients are suffering from preventable disease.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)