

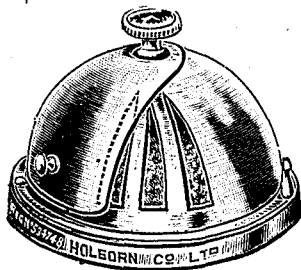
Practical Points.

Sea Water Injections.

A new method in the treatment of chronic diseases that has been much used recently in France is the injection of sea water into the muscles. Dr. Quinton has found that the composition of sea water and the vital plasma are almost exactly the same. The sea water is obtained in sterile retainers from considerable depths of the sea, and at a distance from land. It is again sterilised in the laboratory. The dose is five cubic centimetres, and can be repeated daily when thought best. Other medicaments can be added to it. It is used for syphilis. The phosphated plasma is said to be of great value in nervous diseases and acute mania. The intra-muscular injections are painless and cause no soreness.

Cotton-Wool Receptacle for Aurists and Rhinologists.

Dr. L. Hemington Pegler describes in the *British Medical Journal* a wool-holder made for him by the Holborn Surgical Instrument Company, 26, Thavies Inn, E.C., to whom we are indebted for the accompanying illustration. He writes: "A removable dome-shaped cover of bright metal encloses the wool by catching on to flat, heavy base of the same material. On one side of the cover are three fenestrations, through which the requisite pledget can be detached by forceps, the weight of the receptacle keeping it quite firm. The wool is protected when not in use by a movable plate of metal, operated by a small button, and adjusted by a screw at the summit, which plate slides over the apertures, and also serves to alter their shape and dimensions if desired. The holder is best charged through the apertures,



longish masses, about the width of three fingers, being selected from a sheet of long fibre absorbent wool. The shape of the apertures can be ordered to take other forms than the figure shows—for example, parallel slits, inverted triangles, two triangles base to base separated by a cross-bar, or, better still, all of these in one cover. The figure is one-third the size of my own holder, but I have a larger one on my table at the hospital. The whole contrivance is sterilisable."

Feeding by Rectum.

It should be remembered, says the above-mentioned journal that injection of nutrient material into the lower bowel excites gastric secretion, and may thus account for the pain in the stomach frequently complained of in gastric cases under rectal feeding. This is important, because rectal feeding is often advocated in gastric ulcer in order to give complete rest to the stomach, not only from food but from the secretion of gastric juice.

Artificial Respiration.

Professor Arthur Keith drew from a series of statistics which he presented in his concluding lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons of England recently the conclusion that artificial respiration is not ineffectual, but only effectual in a small percentage of cases. Only one case in ten was recovered by that means, but as that tenth case could not be recognised at sight it was necessary to use it. However, he wished to preach "a doctrine of gentleness," for if properly performed it could do no harm, but if improperly performed it might destroy the possibility of recovery. For that reason he recommended the Schafer method, not that it was in his opinion theoretically correct, but that owing to its simplicity there was less chance of it being misapplied. Everyone who has observed the ignorant application of artificial respiration must endorse Professor Keith's much needed warning.

Dealing with the question as to the chances of recovery of a patient who was immersed for such a period as fifteen minutes Professor Keith advised all those who were in imminent danger of death from drowning to fill their lungs with as much air as possible. If a series of deep breaths were taken there was a better chance of recovery, even after a fifteen minutes' immersion.

Emaciation.

Whenever emaciation is present, says the *Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*, it signifies either defect of nutrition or an abnormal excess of tissue waste. The most frequent causes of emaciation are continued diarrhoea, pulmonary tuberculosis, cancer of the various organs, mesenteric disease, scurvy, and, perhaps, aneurysm of the aorta from pressure on the œsophagus or on the stomach. Of course, all diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, interfering with the proper functions of these organs, will produce emaciation. It also occurs in the course of protracted fevers.

Legal Matters.

At the Leeds County Court recently, Lily Mann, an infant, claimed through her father £9 6s. damages for personal injuries sustained through her ears having been boxed by Ethel Dobson, a certificated teacher at St. Stephen's Church School, Burmantofts. Subsequently she suffered from an abscess, attributed by her medical attendant to the effects of a blow, and the girl is still under treatment for deafness. It further transpired that the girl's head struck the back of the seat when her ears were boxed. Judge Greenhow found for the defendant on the ground of a previous decision, that a certificated teacher had a right to do that which a parent had a right to do. We think it is high time that both parents and teachers should be prohibited from inflicting so inhumane and dangerous a punishment on any child as a blow on the head, which may easily cause permanent injury.

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