

diagnosis is suggested by continued, and often copious, otorrhœa and pronounced deafness; considerable help in diagnosis is given by careful x-ray examination of the mastoid.

The Treatment of Ulcerative Colitis

By W. I. CARD

(Abstracted from the *Practitioner*, Vol. 159, December 1947, p. 490)

THERE is still no satisfactory treatment of ulcerative colitis. A course of penicillin and sulphaguanidine, by destroying some of the secondary bacterial invasion of the ulcers, may do good but this treatment is in no sense specific. Morton Gill has suggested the use of an extract from hog's intestinal mucosa but this does not constantly provoke a remission and has proved disappointing. Thiouracil has recently been suggested. Myxœdematous patients are, of course, often constipated and, by producing a degree of hypothyroidism, thiouracil may inhibit intestinal activity and reduce the diarrhœa. I have only seen it do good when it was pushed to this extent and a definite goitre resulted. This does not seem a very practicable form of treatment but is warranted if there is any suggestion of hyperthyroidism; it must, however, be given with the usual precautions. The anæmia in ulcerative colitis is due to loss of blood, secondary malnutrition and infection. It can usually be treated successfully with transfusion of packed cells in the first instance, and maintenance of a normal or nearly normal blood level with as nutritious a diet as possible, containing animal protein, adequate vitamins, and small doses of iron. Iron is usually tolerated as ferrous sulphate if it is given in very small doses after meals and slowly worked up to the usual dose of 3 to 5 grains (0.2 to 0.32 gm.). If there is lenteric diarrhœa, dilute hydrochloric acid 30 to 60 minims (1.8 to 3.6 c.cm.) in water with meals, may stop it. Treatment of the anæmia is an essential part of therapy as healing of the ulcers can hardly be expected to occur in its presence.

Flavouring Paraldehyde

(From the *Practitioner*, Vol. 159, December 1947, p. 494)

ACCORDING to *The Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association* (July 1947, 8, 366) the Florida Bureau of Professional Relations, conducted from the University of Florida School of Pharmacy, is recommending the following formula for an emulsion of paraldehyde:—

Tragacanth	..	..	0.5 gm.
Paraldehyde	..	..	45.0 gm.
Distilled water	..	..	20.0 c.cm.
Fluid extract of liquorice	..	..	8.0 c.cm.
Syrup	..	..	to 120.0 c.cm.

Each teaspoonful contains about 2 c.cm. of paraldehyde. To improve the flavour it is recommended that each dose should be administered well diluted with iced water or chilled fruit juice. It is also said that preliminary cooling of the mouth by a cold drink is helpful in disguising the characteristically unpleasant flavour of the paraldehyde.

Reviews

PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS (OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL) WITH SPECIAL REFERENCES TO TROPICAL DISEASES. B.P. 1948.—By M. A. Kamath, M.B. & C.M. Published at Planters Lane, Mangalore. Pp. 441, with three appendices. Price, Rs. 7-8

THE book was published by Dr. Kamath originally in 1933. The present volume embodies all the original

information in addition to the incorporation of several official and non-official remedies and several B.P. Addenda which brings it in line with the B.P. 1948.

This book is divided into three parts and is further divided into 14 chapters, dealing with pharmacology and therapeutics of various official and non-official drugs in the pharmacopœia, diagnostic agents as fluorescein, iodophthalein, thorostat, diadone, etc., short notes on important coal-tar derivatives as gonacrin, rivanol, brilliant green, chinisol, etc. The book also includes a brief concise description of modern war-time discoveries as D.D.T. and its application as an insecticide; paludrine, its use in malaria and other protozoal infections and antibiotics as penicillin and streptomycin.

The book also deals with a few indigenous drugs of India of fair repute and those which can be easily substituted for the present B.P., organic and vegetable drugs.

This book is considered as a text and handy volume for medical students and the practitioners in the country practice, who will be able to find all the necessary information they may require without searching for extensive treatises on the subject.

It would have added to the value of the book if the author had added another appendix dealing with International Standards for the biological drugs, posological tables, the pharmacology and uses of snake venoms and treatment of snake-bite poisoning.

The author is however congratulated for his success in incorporating so much information in 440 pages. The appendix on Madras Hospital Pharmacopœia will be very useful to the students and practitioners of Madras province in particular.

J. S. C.

RECENT ADVANCES IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNÆCOLOGY.—By Aleck W. Bourne and Leslie H. Williams. Seventh Edition. 1948. J. and A. Churchill Ltd., London. Pp. viii plus 326 with 85 illustrations. Price, 21s.

THE seventh edition of this intrinsically valuable book will be received gratefully by persons for whom it is meant, viz, the students of advanced obstetrics and gynecology and practitioners of this speciality.

Six entirely new chapters have been introduced. Some others have been suppressed. The first two chapters call for special praise and appreciation—by practitioners in the East with whom 'Nutrition during gestation period' and 'Treatment of œdematous conditions' during the same period are everyday problems in these post-war days. The complex subject has been dealt with in a very easy and pleasant style.

The wealth of physiological and anatomical details in the chapter on Lactation is another special feature. The authors say, in the preface, 'we have been impelled to devote some space to purely physiological details'. The reviewer and readers of this stamp would benefit for such and similar other 'impellations' on the authors' part.

In the Section on Gynæcology—the chapter on Stress Incontinence has been specially well written. The diagrams are of great practical value to the operating surgeon. Who will not admire the frank honesty of the authors—when they say 'We can speak feelingly for though we have had some very successful cases, we have also had one which presented almost every possible mishap' (pp. 267)? Then follows the elaborate and straightforward description of a series of 'mishaps' indeed. It is only a past master in the job who can so clearly describe his difficulties and be a source of encouragement and cheer to the junior colleagues following the footsteps of the master.

It is impossible to keep oneself away from unqualified praise for this valuable work—not only in the 'naivette' of the text but also in its get-up, printing and illustrations—these latter have always been a speciality with the publishers Messrs. J. and A. Churchill Ltd.

M. N. S.