the drug could be taken in pill, and was equally efficacious, as the liquid extract is very nauseous. While I was from home she had another attack, in which she was attended by Dr. Westby, who considers she was only saved from miscarriage by the viburnum. During this last attack, she took her pills five and six times a day; in fact, her faith was such, that she would have taken too many. Bromide of potassium was also given to allay her nervous excitement.

Two other cases turned up during my absence, both of which completed their miscarriage; and I cannot help feeling that, if they had been treated with viburnum, the result would have been different. One sent for Dr. Westby on the third day; the other was treated by another doctor with opium and morphia hypodermically.

It does not do to build too much upon the result of these few cases; but I have been so constantly foiled in my endeavours heretofore to prevent miscarriage, that I hope to have found in viburnum the sure arrestor of uterine action, which we certainly at present do not possess.

As recommended by Dr. Wilson, I prescribe the solid extract prepared by Messrs. Clay and Abraham, of Liverpool, from the liquid extract.

THE TREATMENT OF PAINFUL FISSURE OF THE ANUS, WITHOUT OPERATION.

By A. D. MACGREGOR, M.B., C.M., Kirkcaldy, N.B.

IN the interesting and instructive lecture on the male perinaeum, by Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse, the operation of "stretching" the sphincter ani is advocated, in preference to "cutting" the muscle. This treatment Mr. Wheelhouse recommends in fissure of the anus, because "we can attain our end without causing an external wound, and thereby rendering our patient liable to septic poisoning." I have hitherto treated these fissures without any operative interference at all, and with such success as to warrant a continuance of the method. The following case will illustrate it.

J. T., a coachman, aged 56, had, for eighteen months, suffered such agonising pain during defecation, that an enforced habit of constipation was established. From time to time, he relieved his bowels by enemata, first taking a large dose of laudanum to alleviate his sufferings. On examination with a speculum, I found a fissure, nearly an inch in length, with irregular edges and an indurated base. The sphincter was much hypertrophied, and contracted powerfully and spasmodically during the examination.

I ordered a full dose of castor-oil, with some rhubarb for its secondaryastringent action, forbidding the customary laudanum. When this had operated, I had the bowel well washed out with an enema containing Condy's fluid. This done, I passed the speculum, and painted the fissure with a solution of chloride of zinc (twenty grains to one ounce); then introduced a piece of lint, smeared with boric ointment, the contraction of the sphincter keeping it in contact with the sore. The bowels were kept in check by pilula plumbi et opii. Liquid food only was allowed.

The subsequent treatment consisted in the use of a powder (powdered boric acid, half-a-drachm; violet powder, one ounce), which was sprinkled freely on lint, and introduced into the anus to dry up any discharge, and the continued use of the boric ointment.

By these means the fissure was entirely healed in six days, and there has been no return of the symptoms.

I have always found one application of chloride of zinc enough; it usually causes some smarting and uneasiness, but nothing more effectively purifies the ulcer, or stimulates the reparative process. The introduction of eucaine robs the operative procedure of one drawback—the necessity of taking an anæsthetic; yet, I may recommend a trial of this treatment, at least in the case of those who have an innate horror of anything approaching "cutting."

BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS.—Mr. A. F. Millns, the late Borough Treasurer, has bequeathed £1,000, and a moiety of the "residue" of his estate, to the Windsor Royal Infirmary.—Mr. William Tattersall has given £250 to the Recreation Hall Fund of the Royal Albert Asylum for Idiots and Imbeciles of the Northern Counties.—The Charing Cross Hospital has received £200 under the will of Mr. John Purssord.—"Z. O. T." has, in addition to many previous donations, given £100 to the Royal Free Hospital.—Mr. Joseph Sturge has given £200, further, on account of £2,000, to University College Hospital.—"Liverpool Jack" has given £60 to the London Hospital.—"A Friend" (per Mr. J. Tindall Harris) has given 50 guineas to the North-Eastern Hospital for Children.—"M. A." has given £50 to the Metropolitan Convalescent Institution.

THERAPEUTIC MEMORANDA.

PURE TEREbene AND TERPENE.

I HAVE received so many letters from medical men in different parts of the country giving the results of their experience with pure terebene in the treatment of winter-cough, that practically there has been an informal collective investigation. I have before me brief notes of 94 additional cases, and in 81 of these a distinct success is recorded. In six of the cases of failure, a further investigation showed that there had been an incomplete diagnosis, the patient suffering from some complication, such as aneurysm or aortic disease, the existence of which had not previously been suspected. In ten cases, the patients complained of nausea after taking the medicine; and in several instances, when inhaled from lint, it excited the cough, and apparently acted as an irritant. The explanation is, that much of the pure terebene now sold is of very inferior quality, and would be more accurately described as "impure" terebene. Medicines, as a rule, do not improve by keeping, but pure terebene is certainly an exception, for as it gets older, it becomes bland and oily. It is to be feared that most of the old stock, which, in consequence of the small demand, must have been in druggists' shops for years, has now disappeared, so that greater care has to be taken in the selection of good specimens. Much of the pure terebene now sold is crude and irritating, and quite unfitted for medicinal use. My attention has been called to the fact that there is a terebene which is labelled "patent." I distinctly stated in my paper that the substance I employ is not a "patent" preparation. In almost every case, I find the pure terebene has been given on sugar, and has not been used in the form of spray, probably from the difficulty experienced in obtaining the atomising apparatus. The combination of oil of cubebs, oil of sandal-wood, and pure terebene, which I used with success, has given good results in other hands. I have had no returns of cases of phthisis treated in this way, but most of my correspondents speak of having found pure terebene of benefit in acidity, flatulence, and other forms of dyspepsia. The smell of violets which the terebene imparts to the urine is often referred to, and in one instance it gave rise to complications. A lady called on her lover, who was ill in bed with bronchitis, and was very angry because he would not show her his violets. She searched for them, but did not find what she had expected. I am surprised that pure terebene has not been recommended for diseases of the bladder and urethra. My experience of its employment in these cases is limited, but I have certainly found it useful in cystitis and gleet. Delicate and fastidious women sometimes object to the smell and taste of pure terebene, and I then use terpene in the form of tabloids with good results, although I do not think it is equal to pure terebene.

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TEREBENE.

IN the article on Terebene in the JOURNAL of February 6th, one of its characteristics, and that which is the test of its purity (optical neutrality) is omitted. English oil of turpentine is strongly dextrigryate, a column of 200 millimetres giving a rotation of -59° , whilst terebene is absolutely without action on polarised light.

For several years, I have used oil of turpentine with excellent results in the treatment of acute as well as chronic bronchitis, being led thereto by a fortunate mistake about a decade ago. I had sent an illiterate old fellow a mixture of senega with carbonate of ammonia, and a compound of olive-oil, turpentine, and caustic ammonia to apply to the chest. A day or two afterwards I found him wonderfully better, and he told me, literally with tears in his eyes from a recent dose, that the last medicine was the best he had ever had, but that it had taken the skin off his tongue and throat. He had been taking the liniment (through no fault of mine), and applying the mixture as an epithem.

An objection to the remedy is, however, its very offensive taste, and especially so with children, and this terebene happily removes; but, while much more agreeable, it has certainly proved less efficacious in my hands than its base. And again, in justice to Dr. Bond, who, I think, has been rather hardly treated, it should be stated that his commercial terebene is undistinguishable in taste and smell from the hydrocarbon in its pure form, and, although somewhat viscid (from contained colophene?), it acts with me quite as well therapeutically as the much more expensive purified form, and I find it yields by fractional distillation in a current of steam about 80 per cent. of optically inert terebene. There is another body having the same formula