

NEW PREPARATIONS.

Pumiline Liniment—Pumiline Ointment (G. and G. Stern).

THE pumiline preparations of Messrs. Stern have achieved a high reputation for their purity. We have previously examined and been enabled to speak with high praise of their pumilio as an inhalant. We can also speak with commendation of these two new preparations. The pumiline liniment is a preparation of the essence with olive oil and a suitable proportion of methylated chloroform. We have no doubt that it will be found a useful and agreeable external application for muscular and rheumatic pains.

Pumiline ointment is made up with lanoline as a basis, and may be safely recommended as an elegant application in chafings and excoriations of the skin, to relieve the itching of some skin affections, and for the relief of the pain and swelling accompanying insect bites. It is, beyond its medicinal virtues, a toilet requisite of high merit.

Listerine (Lambert Pharmacal Co.).

“‘LISTERINE’ is the essential antiseptic constituent of thyme, eucalyptus, baptisia, gaultheria, and mentha arvensis in combination. Each *fluidrachm* also contains *two* grains of *refined* and *purified* benzo-boric acid.”

The experiments made by Dr. Deems upon its behaviour in regard to micro-organisms proved it to be “a powerful and trustworthy antiseptic agent.” Thus a twenty-five per cent. solution prevented the development of bacteria and fungi in urine, a thirty-three per cent. solution prevented the decomposition of hay infusion, and a fifty per cent. solution arrested the process in hay infusion after development. It was found that up to ten per cent. listerine prevented putrefaction in animal tissues, and in tissues dipped in it (full strength) no putrefaction could occur. The preparation, though new in this country, at least so far as experience in its use goes, has for long been a favourite medium for local applications and dressing of wounds, and general surgical use, in America, where it has received commendation from many eminent surgeons. It possesses strong aseptic qualities, in the sense that it prevents, rather than destroys, fermentation. Its germicidal properties are probably somewhat less than a solution of carbolic acid of one in twenty, but its constitution and properties render it preferable to carbolic acid for surgical applications.

It is particularly well adapted for use in the throat or nasal cavities. Thus Seiler states that it at once destroys the stench of *ozæna* when employed as a spray to the nose (diluted one-half with water), substituting the pleasant odour of thyme, and he directs it to be used by the patient after preliminary cleansing with bicarbonate of soda. He remarked also that it exerts a curative action upon the atrophic nasal mucous membrane. As an application for purulent otitis it is probably unrivalled. Lefferts speaks highly of its properties in the treatment of nasal catarrhs, and one great advantage of this preparation is, that it can be prescribed for sprays in combination with astringents, being substituted in part for the water

(in the proportion of one in three). We have used it very largely in the treatment of various throat and nasal affections, and can speak very highly of its beneficial results. It is an excellent deodoriser for ozæna, but requires to be combined with soda in order to obtain the dissolution of dry hard crusts. We have found that in some cases a solution of strength of thirty per cent. produces considerable pain in the nose, and it should, therefore, first be employed in weaker solutions. Listerine is a very valuable preparation, and will, when better known, no doubt become as favourite an antiseptic agent in this country as it has already become in America, where it is very extensively employed in general surgery.

NOTE.

A RECENT number of the "Philadelphia Times and Register" has the following comments upon an article which recently appeared in this Journal upon the connection of the Nose and Asthma.

"THE NOSE AND ASTHMA.

"Under this title an interesting article appears in the March number of the 'JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY AND RHINOLOGY.' The nasal organ has of late years pushed itself into a position of undue prominence.

"'Epilepsy, convulsions, vertigo, chorea, asthma, goitre, exophthalmic goitre, hemicrania, hay fever, various diseased states of the eyes and ears, retarded mental development, melancholia, "irritation of the gastro-intestinal, utero-ovarian, and genito-urinary tracts," and other conditions have been considered to be originated or connected in some way with the nose.'

"And as the mechanical ability of our nasal specialists increases, and they learn to handle with still more celerity and dexterity the knife, saw, chisel and galvano-cautery, it may be that they will cure dyspepsia and warts by burning off the Schneiderian membrane or razing to the foundations the turbinated bones.

"This new craze of blaming every misfortune on the nose has about reached its limit; even the rhinological specialists—some of them, at least—are beginning to acknowledge that the world does not revolve about one's prophecies, and that there are some maladies—astigmatism and cramps, for instance—in which certain other organs may exert a slight causative action.

"At any rate we advise them to confine the major part of their mining operations to men only, since the test of years has fully proved to the satisfaction of every self-respecting gynæcologist that all those miseries mentioned above, along with the remainder of the catalogue, depend in women solely on perversities of the uterus and ovaries, complicated, perhaps, with an occasional kink in the round ligaments.

"The author of this article admits that the pendulum is now swinging back to its proper place, and that the nose is being stripped of some of its ephemeral dignities.

"With regard to asthma, there are doubtless some instances in which it can be traced directly to the nose, and in which proper treatment of that organ will be productive either of a cure, or of at least much benefit; but there are many other cases which are evidently either of purely central origin, or at any rate due to a cause utterly unknown to us, and these cases even the substitution of a wax nose would not cure.

"Let our intra-nasal surgeons tread softly and gently, then, along the floor of our nares, and handle with gloves, so to speak, the walls and roof, composed as they are of most quaint and ingeniously carved scrolls, and hung with a membrane which rivals in subtleness of warp and woof and in intricacy of figure any tapestry the deft hand of mediæval high-born dame ever fashioned."—E. B. S.

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