

eral months ago I did a submucous resection in practically the manner described by Dr. Bardes. This one trial showed me that I was immeasurably increasing the difficulty of the operation, and at the same time doing away with the projecting ledge of cartilage, which I had found of such value. Dr. Bardes concludes his remarks with this sentence: "If this is not done the incised membrane undergoes cicatricial retraction and leaves a dry and crusted surface, besides delaying healing." On the contrary, in my cases, more rapid healing and less crusting has been obtained by the method described than by any previous method used.

I must add, however, that my best results have been in three cases in which I have operated within the last few days, in each of which fine silk sutures approximated the edges of the wound.

RICHARD M. NELSON, M.D.,
Colon Hospital, Cristobal, C. Z.

Uniform Size and Card Index for Reprints and Advertisers

To the Editor:—I wish to suggest that THE JOURNAL use its influence to get some uniformity in the size of folio to be used in reprints of various sorts whether put out by authors or (other?) advertisers. If an index card of uniform size were adopted at the same time by advertisers and publishers and sent out with their articles a great deal that goes into the doctor's waste-paper basket would be preserved, indexed and used. I am by no means the originator of this idea but think it worth being called to the attention of the A. M. A. again.

F. W. STARR, Stanley, Wis.

Queries and Minor Notes

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS will not be noticed. Every letter must contain the writer's name and address, but these will be omitted, on request.

SODIUM CITRATE IN FURUNCULOSIS

To the Editor:—In reply to a communication in this department (Nov. 26, 1910, p. 1911) permit me to inform your correspondent that the formula for sodium citrate, as used in furunculosis in the inoculation department of St. Mary's Hospital, London, where Sir Almoth E. Wright is director and where I was formerly an assistant, is:

Sodii citratis	gr. 2
Sodii chloridi	gr. 20
Aque	ʒ 1
Misc. Sig. :	Apply externally as directed.

The preferable method of applying this solution is to cut a hole in a piece of oiled silk, or waxed paper, which is just large enough to allow the opening of the furuncle to stick through. Place over this hole a piece of cotton soaked in the solution and cover it with another piece of waxed paper and keep the dressing in place with strips of adhesive. When irritation becomes objectionable leave off for a few hours and resume when it subsides.

F. J. CLEMENGER, Asheville, N. C.

COMPATIBILITIES OF SILVER NITRATE, ALKALIES AND ALKALOIDS

To the Editor:—1. Kindly tell me what excipient I should use in silver nitrate pills. How is it that the silver does not act on the hyoscyamus that is so often prescribed with it?

2. We are told that alkalies and alkaloids should not be combined in a single prescription. If this is the case, should codein be prescribed with potassium iodid or ammonium chlorid? F. A. N.

ANSWER.—1. Silver nitrate should be prescribed in pill form with an inert vegetable powder, such as powdered licorice, with a little gum tragacanth as excipient. These pills should be freshly made. They have the advantage of being readily soluble, but, as silver nitrate acts on organic matter, they are liable to change in time. To obviate this it has been proposed to use wax or paraffin, which produces a mass that does not readily undergo chemical change, but is likely to be only slowly active on account of the insolubility of the excipient. The use of an inorganic powder, such as potassium nitrate or pure precipitated silicic acid, has been suggested. It is probable that kaolin would answer for this purpose and might be made adhesive by a small amount of tragacanth paste. It is probable that silver nitrate acts to some extent on hyoscyamus, if in solution, but if in the dry form, as in pills, there may be little or

no change. In the stomach the silver nitrate probably would combine with the organic matter of the stomach secretion rather than with hyoscyamus.

2. Alkalies are incompatible with the salts of alkaloids because they precipitate the alkaloid from solution. The salts of the alkali metals are usually not alkaline, and do not precipitate the alkaloids as a rule. As an exception, we may note that iodids do precipitate solutions of the salts of some alkaloids. Potassium iodid is not an alkali, but a neutral salt. It will not precipitate solutions of codein, but it is usually safest to prescribe potassium iodid by itself. Ammonium chlorid is a neutral salt and does not precipitate alkaloids. It can, therefore, be used with solutions of salts of codein or with those of other alkaloids without danger of precipitation of the alkaloid.

The Public Service

Medical Department, U. S. Army

Changes for the week ended Dec. 17, 1910.

Mason, George L., D.S., December 2, reported for temporary duty at Fort William H. Harrison, Mont.

Bartlett, C. J., capt., December 9, granted leave of absence for one month and fifteen days.

Huntington, P. W., capt., December 9, orders relieving him from duty in the Philippine Islands revoked.

Pfe, James D., capt., December 9, on arrival at San Francisco will proceed to Fort Slocum, N. Y., for duty.

Cutliffe, William O., M.R.C., December 13, reports departure from treatment at Walter Reed General Hospital, Takoma Park, D. C., on three months' leave of absence on surgeon's certificate of disability.

Wing, Franklin F., D.S., December 7, ordered to proceed from Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo., to Fort Crook, Neb.; thence to Fort Omaha, Neb.; thence to Fort Des Moines, Iowa, for temporary duty.

McCord, Donald P., M.R.C., December 10, relieved from duty at Fort Ward, Wash., and ordered to Fort George Wright, Wash., for duty.

Demmer, Charles C., lieut., December 10, relieved from duty at Fort Thomas, Ky., and ordered to Schofield Barracks, H. I., for duty on transport sailing from San Francisco March 5, 1911.

The following named officers of the Medical Corps are detailed to take the course of instruction at the Army Field Service School for Medical Officers, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., beginning about April 1, 1911: Reynolds, Frederick P., major; Fauntleroy, Powell C., major; Clayton, Jere B., major; Bispham, William N., major; Bevans, James L., captain; Thompson, Henry D., captain.

Ramsey, William H., C.S., December 8, left Omaha on thirty days' leave of absence.

Craig, Charles F., capt., December 12, detailed to represent the Army at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held at Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 27 to 30, 1910.

Kelly, John P., M.R.C., December 12, on arrival at San Francisco will proceed to his home. Lieutenant Kelly is relieved from active duty in the Medical Reserve Corps, to take effect on the expiration of his leave of absence.

Edwards, George M., lieut., December 13, will make one visit per week for a period not to exceed two months, beginning Dec. 19, 1910, to New York City, for the purpose of making a special study of eye refraction.

Hefebower, R. C., lieut., December 14, relieved from duty at Fort Hamilton, N. Y., and ordered to Army General Hospital, Fort Bayard, N. Mex., for duty.

Long, Charles J., D.S., December 9, reported for duty at Fort Andrews, Mass.

Birmingham, H. P., lieut.-col., and Kenn, Jefferson R., lieut.-col., December 14, detailed members of an Army retiring board to meet at Washington, D. C.

Brown, Henry L., capt., December 8, left Fort Morgan, Ala., on fifteen days' leave of absence.

Talbot, E. M., capt., December 13, left Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo., on eighteen days' leave of absence.

Weed, Mark D., lieut., December 16, left Walter Reed General Hospital, Takoma Park, D. C., on ten days' leave of absence.

Medical Corps, U. S. Navy

Changes for the week ended Dec. 17, 1910.

White, E. C., P. A. surgeon, detached from the naval hospital, Mare Island, Cal., and ordered to the *Vicksburg*.

Bello, J. A., asst.-surgeon, detached from the *Vicksburg* and ordered to duty at the naval hospital, Mare Island, Cal.

Woodward, J. S., P. A. surgeon, ordered to duty at the naval hospital, Mare Island, Cal.

Smith, H. L., P. A. surgeon, detached from the naval hospital, Mare Island, Cal., and ordered home to await orders.

U. S. Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service

Changes for the seven days ended Dec. 14, 1910.

Brown, B. W., surgeon, relieved from duty at Vineyard Haven, Mass., and directed to proceed to Hongkong, China, for duty.

McCoy, G. W., P. A. surgeon, orders to proceed to Honolulu, T. H., revoked.

De Valin, H., P. A. surgeon, relieved from duty at Havana, Cuba, and, on the return of P. A. Surgeon J. S. Boggess, from leave of