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*AN ANALYTICAL RECORD OF CURRENT LITERATURE RELATING TO
THE THROAT AND NOSE.*

EDITED BY

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Sore Throat.

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TIMELY DRUGS.

It is often remarked by practitioners that the care of the throat receives too little attention, and that in health it should be gargled and cleansed very much more frequently than it is. Especially is this the case when there is a bad taste in the mouth in the morning, showing that the liver and digestive organs are a little out of order, and consequently the mucous membrane of the throat is more prone than ever to be the seat of disease. Many a case of consumption appears to start with some throat trouble, such as a dry cough, hacking, irritation, slight expectoration, or a weak voice. We are told that one of the most agreeable and cleansing gargles to use when arising in the morning is Hazeline diluted with several parts of water. It soothes and allays any irritation, cleanses the pharynx and mouth, sweetens the (breath) and is in every way agreeable to use.

An agent that for many and many a year has enjoyed a deservedly high reputation for sore throat is Chlorate of Potash. In all the list of remedies there is no drug which exerts a more wholesome action in proper cases than this; but to obtain the beneficial action in its fullest measure it should not be employed, as is so frequently the case, in the form of gargles, where it is greatly diluted.

The best form of Chlorate of Potash to use is the Tabloids, which are composed simply of the pure drug compressed into bi-convex discs. They are free from admixture of every kind. In this respect they are most superior to lozenges, for in the latter the medicine is weakened in its action by gums, sugar, and flavouring matters. The Tabloids are very hard and dissolve slowly in the mouth, and in using, the oral and pharyngeal membrane is bathed continuously with a concentrated solution of the Potash Chlorate. Imitations of the Tabloids are made not only with inferior products, but so that they chip or crumble, and in the mouth too quickly fall to pieces. With them, as with gargles, the action falls short of what is required, the effect being momentary or at least too transitory. The hard Compressed Tabloids dissolve so very slowly that one remains in the mouth a considerable time, and a more prolonged action is obtained than would otherwise be possible with the same quantity of drug. Chlorate of Potash is used with success as a preventive of sore throat, and eminent laryngologists assert that its continued use in the incipency of acute pharyngitis will frequently abort the disease. In simple as well as mercurial stomatitis; in aphthæ as well as syphilitic sore mouth; from a disease so simple as thrush, to one portending such evil as cancer of the oris, the drug is relied upon with confidence as possessing unquestionable utility. The same is the case in ulcerative sore throat, tonsillitis, and even diphtheria.

Going farther down, we find that even in enervated conditions of the larynx, where the voice is more or less husky, weakened or otherwise impaired, it is very good. It is beneficial to speakers and singers, who tell from actual personal experience of its value to them.

With the Tabloids the maximum effect is obtained with the least possible amount of the drug, and what is a matter of no trivial moment is that they may be used constantly with safety. So much can hardly be said of the imitations and gargles. Where it is designed to supplement the action of the Chlorate of Potash, the Tabloids of Chlorate of Potash with Borax may be employed.

Borax has an especially soothing, tonic action upon the mucous surfaces, liquefying tenacious mucous agglutinations, and differing from many agents in that it removes accumulated secretions by a liquefying and grateful, instead of an irritating, action. Where there is considerable mucus secreted, therefore, these Tabloids would probably answer better than the Chlorate of Potash alone. In all those multiform disorders of the throat affecting the voice, the parts must be treated in such a manner as not subsequently to weaken them. The Voice Tabloids contain, in addition to Chlorate of Potash and Borax, a very small quantity of Cocaine, just sufficient to act with requisite power. Cocaine preparations for the throat are, as a class, a most reprehensible and deleterious set of products, and should be discarded, if for nothing else, because they contain *large doses* of the drug, the effect of which is to produce congestion. Many a throat and voice have been greatly damaged by Cocaine. But with full truth and confidence it may be said of the Voice Tabloids—that they are perfectly safe.

The frequent and most troublesome form of throat affections is that where the parts seem a little weak. There is insufficient tone. It may be, perchance, the weakness is from over-speaking or over-singing. It is most commonly met with in those who depend largely for their livelihood upon the voice, so that perfect restoration of tone is all the more imperative. Many remedies may have been tried in vain. Those with great experience aver that the action of the Chloride of Ammonium Tabloids in such cases is perfect, and doubtless it is for its action in this class of cases that the Vereker Chloride of Ammonium Inhaler finds the chief source of its high reputation.

Voice Tabloids supplied to the Medical Profession in packages of 30 and 80, at 8s. 6d. and 16s. per doz. Retail price, 1s. and 2s. each.

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