NEW REMEDIES

Dolcin* tablets contain calcium succinate 2·8 gr., and acetylsalicylic acid 3·7 gr. and are advocated for use in the treatment of rheumatic conditions. This succinate-salicylate therapy is based on the theory that the widespread systemic disturbance seen in some forms of arthritis is due to an alteration in tissue metabolism and respiration. Calcium succinate counteracts these effects by stimulating oxygen utilisation by the tissues; it also averts the depressant effect of salicylates on blood prothrombin. Dolcin is indicated in the treatment of rheumatic fever; articular rheumatism, including rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis; non-articular rheumatism, including fibrositis, neuritis, lumbago and sciatica; arthritis associated with the menopause and gout. The initial dosage is 3 tablets four times daily, reduced to 2 tablets four times daily when the acute symptoms have subsided. The tablets are usually well tolerated and side-effects are rare. The tablets are issued in bottles of 100. S. L. W.

Folybden* Tablets each contain 1·7 mg. of folic acid and 3 gr. of molybdenised ferric sulphate. The addition to the iron of traces of molybdenum is stated to produce an increased rate of hæmoglobin formation. The tablets are suggested for use in the treatment of refractory normocytic anæmias when satisfactory hæmoglobin regeneration is not produced by the administration of liver extract or of folic acid alone. The dosage is 1 tablet three times daily after meals. S. L. W.

Genabrom* is a sedative preparation, one teaspoonful containing 7½ gr. of sodium bromide in concentrated yeast extract. When stirred with hot water it forms a palatable soup-like beverage. It is indicated in nervous conditions, such as hysteria, anxiety states, irritability, nervous vomiting, travel sickness, neurasthenia, and wherever a sedative is required. For insomnia, one or more small teaspoonfuls are dissolved in a cupful of warm water before retiring. Large doses may be given in epilepsy to lessen the frequency and severity of attacks. It is issued in jars containing 45 and 90 g. S. L. W.

Lantigen* is a desiccated bacterial vaccine for oral use containing antigenic substances prepared from a selected group of freshly isolated bacterial species chosen for their strong antigenic properties. The vaccine is presented as a slightly opalescent colloidal solution, containing as preservatives 0·1 per cent. of phenol and 0·01 per cent. of mercurithiosalicylate. It is claimed that the vaccines are absorbed by the alimentary mucosa and that their action is not impaired by digestion, as antibodies are produced before digestion begins. The vaccines should be taken daily, and the dose should be retained in the mouth as long as possible before swallowing, since the immediate local immunising response obtained is of additional benefit. Six Lantigen vaccines are prepared as follows:—"A," for coryza; "B," for nasopharyngeal catarrh and chronic bronchitis; "C," for rheumatic disorders of pathogenic origin; "D," for staphylococcal skin infections; "E," for hay fever and asthma; "F," for whooping cough. S. L. W.

Magsilate* tablets contain acetylsalicylic acid 5 gr., magnesium trisilicate 1½ gr., magnesium hydroxide 1½ gr., sugar and flavouring q.s. The aspirin is protected by a coating of sugar and flavouring agent, which, in turn, is

surrounded by layers of magnesium trisilicate, magnesium hydroxide, and sugar. The tablets are not intended to be swallowed but to be eaten like a sweet. The advantages claimed for this method of presentation are the absence of free salicylic acid, freedom from irritation of the gastric mucosa, and convenience of administration. Cartons are issued containing 12 tablets.

S. L. W.

Metheph* is a proprietary brand of methylephedrine hydrochloride suitable for oral administration. It is claimed to have the following advantages over ephedrine: (1) the blood pressor action is approximately only one-tenth that of ephedrine; (2) it does not stimulate the central nervous system; (3) it has a persistent slowing and deepening effect on respiration, and there is no secondary acceleration as with ephedrine. It is indicated for the relief of the bronchial spasm of asthma, especially in hypertensive asthmatics, the average dose being 1 tablet three times daily, with 1or 2 tablets at bedtime. Clinical trials have also indicated its value in the treatment of enuresis in children. It is supplied in tablets of 2/3 gr. in bottles of 25, 100 and 500.

S. L. W.

Tineafax* is a compound undecylenate ointment for the treatment of fungus infections of the foot. Undecylenic acid is not only effective against dermatophytic fungi but it possesses the blandness essential for prolonged prophylaxis and treatment, and being related to the normal constituents of sweat it does not cause irritation of the skin. It is also active over a wide *p*H range and is resistant to dilution by bathing and perspiration. In addition to the zinc salt of undecylenic acid, the ointment contains the fungicide zinc naphthenate, mesulphen, which possesses keratolytic properties, methyl salicylate, terpineol, and a small quantity of phenylmercuric acetate as preservative. Tineafax Powder, which is used in conjunction with the ointment, contains 10 per cent. of undecylenic acid, as the potassium salt, in an inert base. The ointment is applied night and morning, the powder being dusted on after the ointment has been rubbed in. The powder may also be used prophylactically by dusting into stockings, socks and shoes. The majority of cases of infection are cleared by this treatment in 7 to 21 days. The ointment is supplied in 1 oz. collapsible tubes, and the powder in 2 oz. tins.

S. L. W.

Trimetron: A New Antihistaminic Drug. I. W. Schiller and F. C. Lowell. (*New Eng. J. Med.*, 1949, **240,** 215.) Trimetron, 1-phenyl-1-(2-pyridyl)-3-dimethylaminopropane, has been shown in animal experiments to combine high antihistaminic activity with low toxicity. The authors now report the results of clinical tests on 84 allergic patients of either sex, ranging in age from 5 to 60 years. Doses of 25 to 125 mg. were given orally for several weeks. All of 12 patients with urticaria obtained satisfactory relief. Of 55 patients with perennial allergic rhinitis satisfactory or partial relief was reported by 47; the 3 reporting partial relief were not improved by increasing the dosage; 13 of 15 hay fever patients also obtained satisfactory or partial relief. Side reactions, chiefly drowsiness and dryness of the mouth, were mild; they occurred in only 10 patients. The drug is considered to be particularly useful in the treatment of perennial allergic rhinitis.

H T. B.