

LEVISEUR (F. J.)

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[Reprinted from the JOURNAL OF CUTANEOUS AND GENITO-URINARY DISEASES, February, 1895.]

AN APPARATUS FOR WARMING AND STERILIZING INJECTIONS.

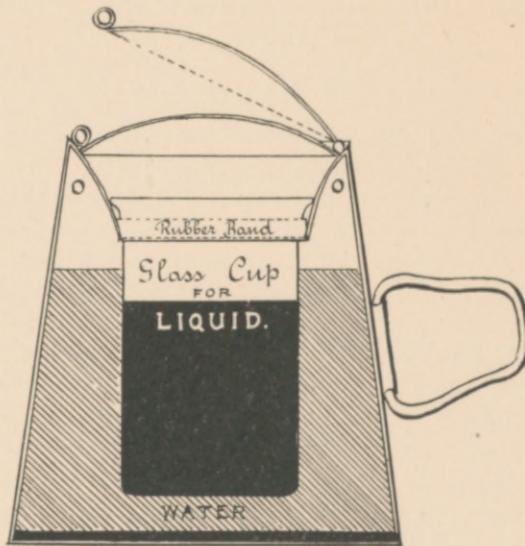
By FRED. J. LEVISEUR, M. D.

THE beneficial action of warm injections in the treatment of gonorrhœa is universally acknowledged. Warm solutions soak more easily into the epithelial layer of the mucous membrane; they are less irritating, and consequently not likely to produce reflex contractions of the muscular parts of the urethra. In many cases they even overcome the resistance of the cut-off muscle and enter the bladder, provided that they are injected in sufficient quantity and under a steady pressure. The reasons why warm injections have not become more popular are the desire of the patients to keep their disease secret and the tendency to regard gonorrhœa as a trifling affection, in the treatment of which it is deemed unnecessary to waste much time and trouble. In spite of the advances of modern science, both this foolish prejudice and this pernicious notion still prevail and compel the physician in a great many instances to stick to the old routine treatment—much against his wish. Still there are patients (and their number is growing) who, either more cautious by nature or made heedful by experience, are willing to devote the proper time and care to the treatment of their ailment and leave the hands of the physician free to act regardless of minor considerations.

The procedure of warming a solution is not as easy as may be imagined. One has to pour some of the solution into a glass tube or a dish and then heat it over a flame, or one has to immerse the whole bottle each time into hot water. In the first instance much of the water will evaporate and the strength of the solution will be greatly increased. In the second instance the label will fall off and the cork will drop out of the bottle and water will enter into the latter. Besides, repeated warming will again result in gradually changing the concentration of the solution. Several vessels, an alcohol lamp, or very hot water are required.



With the kind aid of Mr. M. J. Breitenbach, druggist at 591 Madison Avenue, New York, I have constructed a small apparatus which is to be given to the patient. The accompanying illustration shows its construction. It is cone-shaped, two inches and three quarters high, two inches and a half in diameter at the top and three inches at the bottom, and holds about seven ounces of water. The kettle is half filled with water, some of the solution poured into the glass cup, and the latter inserted into the opening provided for it. The rubber band



Cross Section

around the glass cup keeps it tightly in position, prevents it from cracking, and keeps the steam from coming in contact with the solution. The steam escapes directly from the kettle through a number of holes near the rim. The apparatus can also be used for sterilizing subcutaneous and intramuscular injection fluids or small instruments, as hypodermic needles, scarification and vaccination lancets, etc.

Hoffman Arms, 640 Madison Avenue, New York.

