A CASE
OF
CHOREA,
SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY
ARSENIC,

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Read Feb. 29, 1820.

JANE Budd, seven years of age, was admitted a patient of the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, Dec. 6, 1819, with chorea, which commenced by pain at the top of the head, and unsteadiness of the hands, and had been present five days. The tongue was clean, the pulse regular, and general health good. No cause could be assigned for the disease. Several plans of treatment were tried, but without producing the smallest effect upon the complaint. On the 15th January, when she first came under my own immediate care, the convulsive twitchings of the arm were very frequent and severe. She could hardly articulate, and with diffi-

culty walk alone ; but at the same time, the functions of the stomach and bowels appeared to be unimpaired.

Under these circumstances, I began the exhibition of the liquor arsenicalis, in doses of three, gradually increased to seven drops, three times a-day. On the 21st Jan. the medicine produced sickness, and was therefore omitted until the 24th, when it was resumed in the dose of six drops three times a-day. The disease was now sensibly diminished, and so satisfied was the girl of the benefit she derived from the medicine, that she never failed to ask for it at the regular hour. On the 31st Jan. it again produced sickness, the dose having been increased to eight drops. She was now directed to take a few grains of rhubarb, and on the 7th Feb. was discharged in perfect health.

The effect of the liquor arsenicalis in this case, was shown so speedily and so decisively, that it has impressed me, in conjunction with the cases related by Mr. Salter, in the last volume of the Transactions of this Society, with a very favorable idea of the virtue of arsenic in chorea, when the functions of the stomach and bowels are unimpaired.