Leclanché; and on April 20th I commenced with five cells. I passed the current from the lower spine through both ovaries and uterus for fifteen minutes each morning, and gradually increased the strength as she could bear it to twenty cells. She became unwell within a week of her expected day, and continued so for three days. There was no nerve-disturbance before or after the period. A few days after she was better, I again applied the current, giving up to thirty cells; and the flow made itself visible the very day on which it ought. In twelve hours, it ceased; so I again had recourse to the battery, and in two days all came right, and the discharge was greater than it ever had been, and continued for four days. She remained perfectly free of all epileptic symptoms, and her temper and health were better than ever. I allowed seven days to pass before applying the current; then I made use of it, going up to forty cells.

A week before the expected time, I made her sit daily for fifteen minutes in a hip-bath with a solution of hydrochlorate of ammonia, and passed the current through the water; and on the very day they ought the menses appeared, but again ceased for two days, to reappear and pass through their natural course as on the previous occasion. Again there was perfect freedom from all epileptic signs; so much so that on the second or third day she was out on horseback.

During the time I used the Leclanché, I never omitted the bromide, as her system seemed to have become so used to it that she could not or would not do without it. Of course, three months are not a sufficient test of the power of any remedy; still I think the result is so far satisfactory as to be worthy of record.

One fact I must mention, and that is, that under certain conditions the nerves seem almost insensible to the action of the current; at other times, they resent its mildest application. Another is, that, in giving a bath, care must be taken that the walls of the bath do not abstract the current from the water and the body of the patient; the best plan being to use a copper wire covered with India-rubber solution for the pole inserted into the water, and for the other any other electrode to be moved over the spine or any part of the trunk of the patient either by her own or attendant's hand. The application of this battery can be put in practice by any woman of common observing powers after a single demonstration. For medical purposes, I recommend a forty-cell battery, as it happens very often that the patient can bear that number of cells quite as well as ten or twenty.

I have just learned of the success of the same treatment in two cases—sisters—one aged 19, the other aged 17½. The elder has been irregular always, sometimes missing one or two periods. She has suffered from severe headaches, has had occasional faintings, and her spirits have been greatly depressed; and at intervals she has been unlike herself in disposition and conduct—in fact, epileptiform. She has had all sorts of emmenagogues given her without any result. I ordered her a Leclanché's battery of forty cells, explained to her mother how and when to use it, and she writes me to say that it "has answered perfectly and produced the desired result", not only in the case of the elder girl, but also in the case of the younger, who seemed perfectly healthy, but showed the same disposition to irregular and painful menstruation as her sister. Having only received the above intelligence to-day (August 5th), I regret I cannot furnish further particulars. In the case of the elder girl, I forgot to say that the "period" was not only irregular, but, when it did appear, gave much pain, and necessitated rest in bed for twenty-four hours.

INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION TREATED BY BELLADONNA.

By GEORGE PARKER MAY, M.D., Maldon.

THE subjoined case presents features of interest as illustrating the therapeutic powers of belladonna as well as its toxic action.

A gentleman, seventy-five years of age, in vigorous health, fulfilling the duties of county coroner and those attached to other public appointments, was seized on the morning of August 31st with severe pain in the right iliac region. Mr. Tomlinson, his medical attendant, administered a pill of croton-oil, and subsequently a dose of castor-oil (the patient being exceedingly anxious to have his bowels relieved); this was followed by an injection of warm water. Sickness ensued, and no alvine relief was obtained. In the evening, I was summoned to meet Mr. Tomlinson in consultation. The patient complained of a dull pain, aggravated by pressure, over the head of the colon, extending downwards and towards the lumbar region. The pulse was 60 and full; the head and face flushed. Opium was prescribed, and a repetition of the enema, and turpentine fomentations, which somewhat relieved the pain. On September 1st, he had had much pain during

the night, recurring in violent paroxysms, mitigated by the opium, but returning when the anodyne effects had subsided. Injections, simple and medicated, had been freely administered with no beneficial result, but with the effect of increasing the pain. I advised the administration of a quarter of a grain of extract of belladonna every three hours during the night.—On September 2nd, only one pill had been taken. The pain and general symptoms were aggravated; the tenderness on pressure was greater. The abdomen was swollen and tympanitic. Temperature 102 degs.; pulse 95. He had nausea, but no vomiting. In the evening, there was increased rapidity of pulse, and general evidence of typhlitis. As the case presented a formidable aspect, it was determined to push on the belladonna treatment. Accordingly, he was ordered a pill with a grain and a half of extract of belladonna every two hours during the night.—On September 3rd, at 5 A.M., Mr. Tomlinson was summoned, as the patient was thought to be dying. It was stated by the attendants that the breathing had become stertorous, and that he was incapable of swallowing. Four pills (six grains of the extract) had been taken between 9 P.M. and 4 A.M. Mr. Tomlinson found him to be incoherent, and struggling to get out of bed. On our visit at 9 A.M., he was in the same condition, and delirious. The head and face were flushed, hot, and bedewed with profuse perspiration. The pupils were dilated to the boundary of the arcus senilis, which, in this case, was much developed. The tongue was dry, but no indication of thirst could be observed now, nor evident throughout his illness. The tempera ure could not be ascertained owing to the extreme restlessness of the patient and the jactitation of the arms. The pulse was rapid, feeble, and compressible. Brandy in small quantities, with milk and ammonia, was given, as it could be got down; and ice water was applied to the head. In the meantime, he had passed involuntarily in bed a copious fluid evacuation. At 1 P.M., he had made incessant efforts to get out of bed, which were with difficulty re-trained. Though far from rational, he was less incoherent; he knew his brother, and called him by name. The bowels had again been copiously relieved. At 8 P.M., he was much better; rational, but excitable and talkative. The pain in the body was nearly gone, and the tympanites much subsided. He had several evacuations, for which purpose he got out of bed of his own accord.—On the 4th, he was much better, having had four hours' quiet and continuous sleep. The pupils were much dilated. The tongue was coated with a moist brown fur. There was slight uneasiness in the head. From this period his convalescence proceeded uninterruptedly, and, in a fortnight, he was able to resume his ordinary avocations.

NOTES ON SEWER-GAS POISONING.

By HENRY G. TREND, L.R.C.P., etc.

DURING the last two years, several cases of illness, presenting various different symptoms, all traceable to the poisonous effects of sewer-gas, have come under my notice. An abstract of these in the order of attendance may not be without some interest.

In January 1877, I was called to see three children, seven, five, and three years old, living in a large new and apparently well-built house in one of the finest roads in the north of London. They were all vomiting and very feverish, the youngest especially ill, with a temperature of 103 and every appearance of oncoming scarlet fever. On the following day, there being no improvement, Dr. Sutton saw the children with me. He also suspected scarlet fever. No rash appearing, on further inquiries, I found that the father, mother, and two servants had for some time felt a nausea, with occasional diarrhoea and a general feeling of exhaustion. Although assured that the drains were "all right", I determined on seeing for myself, and speedily found the cause of the mischief. *The joints of the soil-pipe had been forgotten to be cemented, and the sink in the back kitchen was untrapped; consequently the whole atmosphere of the house was impregnated. The youngest child continued alarmingly ill for many weeks; a large abscess formed round the left elbow-joint, which, in February, Mr. Allingham saw with me. The child, however, after many months of suffering, made a capital recovery, and has perfect use of the joint.*

During the last month, I have been again attending this family with the same sort of symptoms, and found that, in the lavatory on the half-landing, an ingeniously (?) contrived zinc-lined tray for the use of the housemaid had been put, into which the waste water from the basin and the bath-room above ran, *communicating directly with the drain, but which was omitted to be trapped. This has been done, and the health of the inmates is now good.*

In September last, I was sent for to a house close to Hackney Downs, and found the whole family (ten in number) covered with an