anxious waiting for recurring excitement. There are several convulsive diseases of apparently equal severity to this, but which terminate generally in recovery; as examples, we may notice epilepsy and severe forms of hysteria. The nervous system in hydrophobia is under the influence of a more permanent morbid impression than exists in those diseases, and one which, unhappily for mankind, neither the powers of the constitution nor the resource of our art have yet been able to counteract; and although I should not feel disposed to discourage the most energetic use of every rational means for the relief of those who have the misfortune to be afflicted by this dreadful malady, yet a kind of melancholy feeling hangs upon my mind, that, after its actual development, hydrophobia will never be cured.

In order, as it appears to me, to secure a probable chance of success, we should acquire possession of the constitution first; or, in other words, anticipate the symptoms indicating the presence of the disease by some powerful stimulus, on the principle of one general action preventing or superseding another. In order to attempt the accomplishment of this object, I would recommend the administration of mercury in all cases of persons who have suffered from the bite of an animal known to be in a rabid state, and that such individuals should be kept under the moderate influence of that mineral during a period of at least three months. It is true, mercury has been generally resorted to in hydrophobia, but it has, as far as I know, only been used after the peculiar symptoms of the disease have manifested themselves, and whether its specific effects have, under such circumstances, been fully established, is doubtful, owing in some measure to the tendency in this disease (hydrophobia) to excessive secretion of the salivary glands and mucous surfaces of the pharynx, &c. My idea is, as before stated, to get the first possession of the system, and we know of no stimulus so steady and general as that of mercury. It unfortunately happens too generally that the treatment of persons bitten by rabid animals is referred to empirics, to some notorious or inefficient nostrum or pretended remedy, and it is only when the last horrible symptoms manifest themselves that a medical practitioner is consulted.

There are some writers on hydrophobia who consider the disease to be much connected with the imagination; but surely these two cases tend amply to refute such an opinion, the old man possessing remarkable firmness of mind, and the boy quite free, easy, and unconscious as to the dangers of his situation.

On referring to the article in the "Encyclopædia of Medicine," by Dr. Bardsley, on Hydrophobia, he divides it into three stages, the second being what he terms the stage of recrudescence, having reference to the reopening of the original wound. In the first case, the original wound never reopened, but remained firm from the first healing till death. In the second, this state (reopening) of the cicatrix was observed about four or five weeks before the symptoms of hydrophobia appeared.

CASE
OF
EFFUSION ON THE BRAIN
AFTER SCARLATINA.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—I send you the following case of effusion on the brain for insertion in your Journal, if you deem it of sufficient interest to occupy a place in its columns.

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS A. S. STOCKER,
Member of the Royal College of Physicians,
London, and Senior Physician to the
Ludlow Dispensary.

Ludlow, January 10, 1843.

Mary Weaver, aged fourteen, has never menstruated; is a child of fair complexion and light hair; had scarlatina simplex, accompanied with very little sore throat. This account I heard from her sister. No medical man was called to attend her during the disease. Nearly one month had elapsed when I was sent for.

August 7, at ten in the morning, I found her lying on a sofa; the countenance was pale; the extremities cold; pulse at wrist scarcely perceptible; action of the heart weak; she was deaf, and quite blind; the pupil was greatly dilated; convulsions; bowels confined. I may here state, she had frequently complained, for more than a week, of great pain in her head, and occasional giddiness, attended with faintness. During sleep she talked and screamed, so as to be heard over the house. She eat a hearty breakfast of ham and bread and butter, with tea; before I left she was very sick, which I felt anxious to encourage, and endeavoured to give some mustard in warm water, but without success. I ordered ten leeches to be applied to the temples, and mustard poultices to the feet; cold applications to her head; enema with castor oil and gruel, immediately; four grains of calomel, with twelve of scammony, in the evening. The cataplasms remained on more than one hour, and she took some portion of the powder. Frequent and strong convulsions now occurred; the pupil was still dilated; the head hot; bowels not open. The leech bites bled freely, apparently with some relief; there was a restless tossing of the head about, and the legs were drawn up, as if the patient suffered from pain in the bowels. The following powder to be taken immediately:—

Calomel, four grains;
Croton oil, one drop.
Continue enema.

Has passed no water, and very little motion, and that of a hard and scybalous nature; was quite unconscious of its coming away; feet still cold. Repeat cataplasma and cold application to the head. Difficulty in swallowing; lips to be moistened with wine and water.

8. Is in very nearly the same state as yesterday. Pupil still dilated; insensible to light; bowels open a little; several attacks of convulsions during the night, which at length produced great weakness and exhaustion; pulse low, 60; not any sleep. Ordered a small quantity of tea, toast and water; to take

four grains of calomel every three hours; enemata to be continued; mustard poultice on the top of head.

Evening. Bowels open very little; convulsions less frequent; feet warmer; still tossing of head about, and restlessness. Poultice remained on two hours, with some apparent relief; head not so hot. Enema repeated. Ordered to take the following powder at night:—

Calomel, four grains;
Dover's powder, four grains.

Pulse about 60.

9. Rather more quiet; had about two hours' sleep after taking the powder; convulsions during the night; bowels open once; has passed no urine since Sunday; pupils rather less dilated; pulse low and irregular; able to swallow better. Ordered arrow root and brandy in small quantities and frequently, as the patient is very weak and exhausted. Feet warmer; head not so hot. To take the following powder immediately:—

Calomel, three grains;
Elaeterium, half a grain.

Four tablespoonfuls of the mixture in a pint of gruel for injection every three hours.

Infusion of senna, eight ounces;
Tincture of senna, half an ounce;
Croton oil, eight drops. Make an injection.

Three, p.m. Certainly not worse; pupil less dilated; very restless, as if suffering pain; can swallow better; bowels have not acted; arrow root and brandy appeared to revive her. Continue remedies.

Eight, p.m. Symptoms rather more favorable; pupil less dilated; pulse regular, about 76, weak. Her father called to say that the bowels acted freely three or four times, but she was quite unconscious of it; apparently felt more comfortable and tranquil, with return of slight consciousness. From the bowels being freely evacuated, and the patient not having any sleep for three days and nights, the following powder was ordered to be taken immediately:—

Calomel, four grains;
Opium, half a grain.

Enema in case the bowels do not act.

10. No sleep during the night; more quiet; no return of convulsions; bowels freely open, and a great quantity of urine has passed; pulse very low, 55 to 60, fluttering; pupil less dilated. The following draught to be taken immediately:—

Camphor mixture and water, of each half an ounce;
Laudanum, fifteen drops;
Compound spirit of lavender, half an ounce.

About midday, after having enjoyed some hours' quiet sleep, she awoke rather confused, and asked the nurse what was the matter and how long she had been in bed. On being asked a few questions, she answered them rationally, but very soon relapsed into a comatose state.

Evening. Pupils less dilated; bowels acted six times freely; after each evacuation she felt more collected, and knew those around her. When I came into the room she spoke to me, and answered questions very rationally. To take the following powder immediately:—

Calomel, three grains;
Dover's powder, four grains.

Enema, if requisite.

11. Slept many hours during the night; pulse 70; bowels acted freely without enema; more conscious of what was being done about her. Took nourishment, broth and beef tea. Two tablespoonfuls of the following mixture every four hours:—

Camphor mixture, two ounces;
Tincture of hyosciamus, two drachms;
Compound decoction of aloes, six ounces.

12. Has had a good night; pulse more regular; action of the heart less frequent; tongue cleaner; pupil still a little dilated; bowels opened freely; evacuations healthy; return of consciousness and more collected than yesterday. Broth and beef tea during the day. To take three grains of calomel and half a grain of opium at night. Mixture to be continued, with strict orders for her to be kept quiet.

13. Did not see her during the day; Dr. Walker kindly visited for me, and found her better. She had had a good night, and was quite conscious of every thing. Pulse regular; bowels open. To continue the mixture.

14. Passed a quiet night, and is sensible; bowels regular; secretions healthy; pulse weak but regular; breathing natural. As she was tired of bed, I allowed her to be moved into another room on the same floor. Light pudding for dinner. Continue the mixture.

15. Slept from five last evening till seven this morning. Bowels freely open; pain in the head gone; circulation more general. Some chicken to be taken for dinner. The mixture during the day, so as to procure two or three evacuations. The following powder every night—calomel with chalk, four grains. I did not see her for several days, when, one morning, to my great astonishment, she called with her father, quite recovered, to thank me for my attention during her illness.

REMARKS.

From the time the eruption disappeared to the Sunday I first saw her (near one month) she frequently complained of general debility with occasional pain in the head and loss of appetite. There was no swelling resembling dropsical swelling, but an inflammatory state, which terminated in effusion on the brain, a disease which not unusually follows scarlatina, if not properly attended to. I have very little doubt, had medical assistance been procured earlier, and purgatives given, the dangerous symptoms which followed would have been prevented. It may be asked, why were not blisters applied to the neck or legs? The reason, in my opinion, was clear; there was already too much excitement going on in the brain, which would have been increased by counter-irritation too near the seat of disease, accompanied with great debility. Three days and three nights passed without sleep. I thought the only plan for allaying the very great excitement was to give small doses of opium with calomel, which had the desired effect without producing constipation of the bowels. She is at present and has been ever since in perfect health.