PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL

And Retrospect of the Medical Sciences.

No. 175.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1844.

PRICE SIXPENCE.
[Stamped Edition Sevenpence.]

EAST SUFFOLK AND IPSWICH HOSPITAL.

REPORT OF CASES,

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The following report is limited to the out-patients that have fallen under my own care, during the preceding twelve months, viz., from Jan. 1, 1843, to Jan. 1, 1844. Although the number of cases is too small to render a strictly tabular arrangement desirable, still, as showing the class of disease mostly prevalent in a purely agricultural district, the subsequent remarks may not prove altogether unimportant.

Total number of cases 226.

Nervous System.

Amaurosis, 1; neuralgia, 1; cephalalgia, 3; epilepsy, 3; chorea, 1; paralysis, 1; hypochondriasis, 5.

Observations.—Affections of the nervous system do not constitute a large proportion of the diseases that have presented during the past year. One or two points, however, of practical interest may be briefly alluded to.

Neuralgia.—The case of neuralgia occurred in a farm laborer, and was confined apparently to the lower dorsal and lumbar nerves. After a great variety of treatment, both externally and internally applied, the disease at length yielded to a persevering use of Fowler's solution in doses of five minims three times a-day.

Among the more recently proposed remedies for this painful affection stand the Indian hemp. I have not, however, yet had an opportunity of testing its value.

M. Ducros, of Marseilles, states that "in the most obstinate tic douloureux, whether fronto-facial or tempero-facial, the pain disappears instantaneously, on the application of ammonia at 25° (= a sp. gr. of '906) to the palatine arch, by means of a camel's hair brush; the brush being allowed to remain on the part till a copious flow of tears has been excited. If the pain returns, a fresh application again produces a cessation of the neuralgia."—*Gaz. Medicale and Med. Gaz.*, Sept. 15, 1843.

The veratria ointment, composed of 1 part to 80 parts of lard, is said to be much more efficacious if made with rancid instead of fresh lard, which is probably owing to a salification and greater solubility effected in the veratria, by the agency of the free acid in the fat.—*Lancet*, May 27, 1843.

Dr. Brookes, of Cheltenham, has found the following preparation cure a most obstinate case of facial neuralgia, after all other remedies had failed. Take of aconitina, two grains; rectified spirit, sufficient to mix with lard, two drachms. Make an ointment. A piece the size of a pea to be rubbed on the face, on the access of pain.—*Lancet*, Jan. 6, 1844. The same

remedy is favorably mentioned by Dr. Watson, in his valuable lectures.—*Med. Gazette*, June 18, 1841.

Epilepsy.—One case of epilepsy occurring in a little girl aged twelve, is worthy of note, inasmuch as the patient had menstruated regularly from the age of six years. The disease was, however, of comparatively recent origin, and cured by gradually increased doses of the sulphate of zinc and iron. The watery extract of belladonna has been lately recommended as a remedy in epilepsy, by Dr. Debreigne. He commences with a grain and a half daily, increasing it until about nine grains are taken in the twenty-four hours. Should the injurious effects of the belladonna show themselves, the dose must be diminished or the remedy for a time suspended.—*Prov. Med. Journ.*, July 2, 1842.

Chorea.—The case of chorea occurring in a female, shortly before the appearance of the catamenial discharge, was treated successfully by drachm doses of the sesquioxide of iron, together with a good nutritious diet. In the instance of another patient I have seen the cure much accelerated by the daily use of the sulphur bath, as recommended by Dr. Hennis Green, and used in the Children's Hospital at Paris. The proportion was four ounces of the sulphuret of potassium to a common bath.

Dr. Babington relies principally upon the sulphate of zinc as a remedy for chorea, but believes that its good effects are seldom perceptible until twelve or fourteen grains (or even more) are taken three times a-day. This medicine, cautiously increased, may sometimes be carried to a great extent, and with benefit, without producing nausea. In the event of the stomach resisting the sulphate of zinc, Dr. Babington relies principally upon the liquor potassæ arsenitis.—*Guy's Hospital Reports*, No. 13.

Respiratory System.

Chronic tonsillitis, 1; malignant tonsil, 1; catarrh, 1; acute bronchitis, 2; chronic bronchitis, 4; bronchorrhœa, 1; pleurodynia, 1; chronic pleuro-pneumonia, 1; phthisis, 21.

Phthisis.—As might be anticipated from the locality of the county, diseases of the respiratory organs form a large proportion of the cases seeking medical relief, and among these phthisis pulmonalis unfortunately stands the most prominent. In the majority of instances I have been able to trace the commencement of the general symptoms, at least, to exposure to cold and wet, insufficient clothing (especially the not wearing flannel), and bad diet; all which circumstances, combined with the variable climate, tend rapidly to produce that predisposing condition of the system, aptly termed strumous cachexy.

In the incipient stage of the affection the treatment that I have chiefly adopted has been the following:—Local depletion by leeches beneath the clavicles, succeeded by counter-irritation by means of small blisters

or the croton oil liniment; an emetic of ipecacuanha on alternate mornings, provided no gastric irritation obtain; and the exhibition of gradually increased doses of steel. I believe that the latter remedy would be better borne, and consequently prove more beneficial, were it to be commenced in much smaller doses than those usually adopted. In the treatment of incipient phthisis, I conceive this to be a point of considerable moment. The diet should be nutritious, but unstimulating.*

In following the above practice I have decidedly had the satisfaction of occasionally witnessing, if not a cure, an indefinite suspension of the disease, and as such would confidently recommend its adoption in the incipient stage of the affection; in the second and third degrees of phthisis, however, although nature does in rare instances tend to the cicatrization of a cavity, or isolate it by the formation of a new and firm membrane, either around it or within its walls, we must, I fear, in reference to the effect of remedies, look only to the palliation of the more prominent and distressing phenomena of the disease.

The treatment that has been commonly indicated and adopted in the advanced stages of phthisis has commenced with the application of a large blister over the sternum, which, on healing, has been succeeded by the daily use of a liniment of turpentine and acetic acid;† the endeavour to remove gastric irritation (which in this country especially I have found so constantly to accompany the progress of the disease) by hydrocyanic acid and an alkali, confining the diet to broth and farinaceous articles, to quiet the cough with morphia, and, as soon as the tongue has lost its glazed appearance and prominent papilla, to improve the diet, and commence the cautious use of mild tonics and the preparations of iodine.

M. Fournet alludes to his having met with, in the course of one year, no fewer than fourteen cases of confirmed phthisis that were cured, besides ten other cases, in which dissection revealed the traces of caverns that had become perfectly healed.

He goes on to remark that these fourteen cases of phthisis cured in the living subject have proved to me,

1st, That certain persons, who have exhibited the most decided symptoms of the disease in its most advanced stage, may yet be restored to excellent health!

2nd, That if the general state is satisfactory in these individuals, and does not occasionally bear the evidence in some manner of the accidents of their past life, the local condition is very different, and always reveals the presence of alterations more or less extensive.

3rd, That even hereditary phthisis in its most advanced stage is susceptible of cure, although such an occurrence is certainly much more rare than in cases of the accidental disease.

4th, That phthisical patients who have been treated by very various kinds of remedies, or who have been

* For more extended observations on the subject of the diagnosis and treatment of incipient phthisis, I beg to refer to the Provincial Medical Journal, Sept. 3, 1843; the "Medical Gazette," May 26 and June 3, 1843.

† Take of oil of turpentine, two ounces and a half; acetic acid, five drachms. Mix; for a liniment. To be freely rubbed over the chest every morning.

left entirely to the resources of the natural powers of their economy, seem to have recovered in about the same proportion, and, therefore, that nature generally "fait tous les frais" of the cure of the disease.

He concludes his remarks with the following sentence:—"The capital fact which seems to spring from these inquiries is, that tuberculous disease is not, like cancer, essentially incurable; on the contrary, that it is often curable, and that its extreme and most disheartening fatality is referable rather to the circumstance of its being seated in one of the vital organs of the system, and to its tendency to frequent relapses, than to its primary and essential nature."—*Med. Chir. Rev.*, Jan., and *Lancet*, Jan. 6, 1844.

Among the more recently proposed remedies for the "cure of consumption" stands naphtha, advocated by Dr. Hastings. My own experience of its effects is at present too limited to authorise an opinion; but, from the general results contained in our weekly journals, I fear that we must look still further ere we find a remedy even approaching to the nature of a specific for this devastating disease.

M. Pereira, of Bordeaux, in a memoir on the treatment of pulmonary phthisis, lately read before the Academy of Sciences at Paris, reports very favorably of the use of cod liver oil and tonics in this affection. The climate of Guelph, in Upper Canada, has been lately strongly recommended as a residence for consumptive patients; it would be highly desirable for those having medical friends in that district to request their especial attention to the subject.—*Edin. Med. Journ.*, Jan., 1844.

On the effects of climate in phthisis, M. Boudin advises a mild temperature and a marshy, but not insalubrious soil. The testimony of numerous inquirers in different parts of the globe appears to coincide in this, viz., that where intermittent fever is of frequent occurrence, phthisis is comparatively a rare disease.

The case of pleuro-pneumonia was one of interest, but, as it subsequently fell under my care as an in-patient, it may, perhaps, with other cases, hereafter form the subject of a distinct paper.

Bronchitis.—In the treatment of the acute form of this affection, the ordinary remedies were successfully adopted, viz., mercury, antimony, and counter-irritation by blisters, and the turpentine and acetic acid liniment. I have not found it necessary to increase the dose of tartar emetic beyond half a grain every four hours.

Bronchorrhæa.—An interesting case of this disease occurred in a girl, aged six years. From the statement of the mother, it appeared that the disease had existed for eighteen months, with variation in the quantity expectorated; but, at the time of application, seldom less than three-quarters of a pint, and more frequently upwards of a pint, of what she described as "thick, stringy corruption," was daily discharged from the bronchi. The chest throughout yielded a healthy sound on percussion, while a general sibilous râle, mixed up with the sonorous and mucous rhonchi, was audible over every part on auscultation. In the treatment of the case the acetate of lead, in grain doses, according to the plan of Dr. Henderson (*Med. Gazette*, May, 1840), proved of signal service, premising, at the same time, the regular exhibition of alterative aperients. Under this practice the expect-

toration was greatly diminished, but, from the intensity of the blue line along the border of the lower gum, it was deemed advisable to substitute the iodide of potassium in grain doses, under the use of which the recovery was perfected. It is, perhaps, worthy of remark, that a brother of this patient, aged eight years, was brought at the same time, laboring under dysentery, of five months' standing. The acetate of lead in this instance alone effected a cure.

Circulating System.

Cardiac irritability, 1; nervous palpitation, 1; diseased mitral valve, 1; endocarditis, 1.

Endocarditis.—This case presented in an artisan, aged twenty, from exposure to cold. On application the prominent symptoms were, great anxiety depicted on the countenance; dyspnoea; pain in the region of the heart, its action being irregular, abrupt, and "jogging;" percussion elicited no abnormal dulness, but the interval between the two sounds of the organ was extremely uncertain; the systole was accompanied with a bruit de soufflet.

The treatment chiefly relied on consisted of free leeching over the heart and purging, followed by blisters and mercury. Occurring in an impoverished system, general depletion was not had recourse to.

Digestive System.

Dyspepsia, 52; gastralgia, 16; hæmatemesis, 1; subacute gastritis, 1; chronic gastritis, 1; icterus, 1; constipation, 3; vermes, 7; chronic peritonitis, 2; diarrhoea, 1; dysentery, 1; abdominal tumor, 2.

Diseases of the digestive organs form a very large proportion of the affections to which the poor in this county are peculiarly liable, and may, I think, be attributed, independently of diet, to the non-adoption of warm clothing, and the consequent exposure of the cutaneous surface to the vicissitudes of our uncertain climate.

Gastralgia.—Some of the cases of this disease have been extremely severe. The treatment from which I have witnessed the most benefit has been repeated blisters to the epigastrium, and the combination of hydrocyanic acid, tincture of henbane, and an alkali. In some instances the nitrate of silver in full doses, combined with the extracts of hop and rhubarb, has been found of considerable value in allaying the pain and excessive gastric irritability. In one very obstinate case considerable relief was apparently derived from the administration of the bichloride of carbon in four minim doses three or four times a-day in distilled water.

Urinary Organs.

Eneuresis, 1.—This case was speedily cured by the following formula:—

Tincture of sesquichloride of iron, ten minims;
Tincture of cantharides, five minims;
Tincture of opium, three minims;
Infusion of quassia, one ounce and a half. Mix.
For a draught. To be taken three times a-day.

With a view of stimulating the bladder or its sphincter, by rendering the urine more irritating, Dr. Young has recommended the exhibition of the nitrate of potash in ten grain doses every three hours.—*Amer. Journ. Med. Sci.*, April, 1843.

Generative Organs.

Chlorosis, 9; amenorrhoea, 13; menorrhagia, 2; hysteria, 9; malignant disease, 1.

Chlorosis.—These cases have in general rapidly amended under a combination of the sulphates of iron and quinine. For a complete *résumé* of the experience of the best writers on this subject, I would refer to the valuable report published in this Journal by Dr. Cowan, of Reading, May 27, 1843.

Menorrhagia.—Both cases were cured by the exhibition of the ergot of rye in doses of six grains three times a-day.

Professor Simpson, of Edinburgh, has employed the gallic acid in some cases of menorrhagia with the most successful results. He gives it during the intervals as well as during the discharge in doses of from ten to twenty grains per day, made into pills.—*Lond. and Edin. Month. Journ.*, July, 1843.

Skin Diseases.

Ecthyma, 2; porrigo, 1; impetigo, 1; acne, 1; eczema, 5; psoriasis, 1; pityriasis, 1; lepra, 2; erythema, 1; prurigo, 1.

Affections of the skin are of frequent occurrence in this county, and in the majority of instances appear more or less connected with the strumous diathesis.

Miscellaneous Affections.

Strabismus, 1; ophthalmia tarsi, 1; deafness, 1; ague, 1; debility, 6; anæmia, 2; bronchocele, 2; rachitis, 1; struma, 13; chronic rheumatism, 7.

Struma.—This affection stands prominently forward under the combined influence of cold, moisture, and insufficient clothing. In its treatment, the various preparations of iodine, with improved diet, and the wearing flannel, afford the greatest prospect of benefit.

Chronic Rheumatism.—The combination of iodide of potassium with decoction of bark is the remedy from the use of which I have derived the greatest amount of benefit in the treatment of this obstinate affection.

Strabismus.—This case occurred suddenly in the person of a shipwright, from exposure to a current of cold air. Purgatives, blisters to the nape of the neck, and keeping the patient under the influence of mercury for some days, effected a cure.

PARASITIC INSECTS IN THE PUSTULES OF MANGY DOGS.

At a meeting of the Microscopical Society of London, held on the 20th of December, 1843, Edwin J. Quekett, Esq., in the chair, a communication from A. Tulk, Esq., upon certain parasites in the dog, was read. These parasites were found by Mr. Topping, on examining microscopically the contents of the pustules in a mangy dog. They belong to the genus *Demodea* (Owen), first discovered, figured, and described by Dr. Simon, of Berlin, as inhabiting the sebaceous sacs and hair follicles of the human skin. The insects, now described as existing in the dog, were found in such abundance that thirty or forty were frequently seen in a single drop of pus. They differ very slightly from the human parasites before referred to; but analogy would lead to the conclusion that they are of a different species. The discovery of this parasite may throw some light on the cause of the disease called mange—a disease by no means confined to one class of animals, while at the same time it is far from being certain whether this insect is the exciting cause, or is merely developed during the progress of the disorder."—*Physiological Journal*, Jan., 1844.