

the treatment with aperients; but it must never be forgotten that where debility is well marked, or where there is a decided tendency to ulceration, great caution is required in the use of purgatives. In the employment and selection of purgatives and aperients we must be guided by general principles.

A very excellent aperient is the well-known sulphate-of-magnesia and sulphuric-acid mixture; to which, if there is a gouty tendency, a little wine of colchicum, or, if anæmia, sulphate of iron, may be added as follows:—Sulphate of magnesia, three ounces; dilute sulphuric acid, an ounce and a half; sulphate of iron, three drachms; simple syrup, six ounces; syrup of ginger, one ounce; infusion of quassia to twenty-four ounces; a tablespoonful in a good deal of water, three times a day.

Another very useful tonic aperient, especially if the bowels are easily moved, and if there are indications of nervous debility, is the following:—Phosphate of soda, three ounces; dilute phosphoric acid, two ounces; syrup of ginger, six ounces; compound infusion of gentian, eight ounces; distilled water to twenty-four ounces: shake the bottle: a tablespoonful, in a large wineglassful of water, to be taken three times a day.

In each case the dose must be so regulated that the bowels are kept freely open. If purging is induced it must be diminished; while, if the bowels are not acted upon, a pinch of sulphate of magnesia may be added to each dose in the case of the first prescription, a little phosphate of soda in the second.

In acute cases, one or two full doses of calomel, followed by castor oil or a seidlitz powder, is often beneficial at the outset; but prolonged purgation must in every case be avoided, for although it may remove the eruption for a time, it returns whenever the treatment is stopped, and, by weakening the patient, may indefinitely prolong the disease.

We are told that sulphur is the great blood depurant in the case of diseases of the skin; but, for my part, I have as little faith in it when administered internally as when used as a local application. When it does good, it is generally in virtue of its purgative action; while it has this drawback, that it is converted into sulphuretted hydrogen, so that the secretions have a disagreeable odour. It is usually given in electuary with acid tartrate of potash, but it is better to prescribe one of the natural mineral waters containing it; and the fact that some of these do not act as purgatives must not be taken to disprove my assertion with regard to the *modus operandi* of sulphur, for the benefit which accrues may be due to the combination of salts held in solution. Those of Harrowgate and Moffat in this country, and of Aix-la-Chapelle, Enghien, Barèges, and Luchon on the continent, have the greatest reputation, in this