

proved to be masses of pus corpuscles, These were found independent of injections, since medication of all kinds had been discontinued.

It was soon found that this method of treatment had its disadvantages; although it relieved the pruritus, the frequent passage of the sound so early in the course of the disease aggravated the periurethral effusion and in one instance chordee returned, making it questionable if anything had been gained. Afterwards the warm sound and the flexible catheter were found equally efficient, and it began to be evident that *distention* of the urethra was the important factor in the problem.

Finally the trouble arising from the frequent passage of instruments was eliminated in the following way; the patient was directed to hold the end of the penis firmly between the thumb and index finger in such a way that no urine could escape, then to make an effort to pass his urine, in this way thoroughly distending the urethra and keeping it distended for one or two minutes, the sensations of the patient to be the guide as to the amount of force to be used. This measure has proved entirely successful, the period of relief is as long as that obtained by the sound, the relief is as complete, and no unpleasant consequences have followed.—*four. of Cutaneous and Venereal Diseases.*

### MINOR DYSPEPSIA.

This is the subject of an interesting paper read by Dr. W. R. D. Blackwood before the Philadelphia County Medical Society, January 10, 1883, and printed in the *Medical Times*. The causes of the ailment he specifies as bad cooking, hurried "bolting" of food at table, imperfect digestion in the stomach (through impaired function), and defective duodenal digestion. After dwelling at length on each of these, and remarking that "in all forms of indigestion prevention is better than cure," he proceeds to consider the treatment to be adopted. The indiscriminate use of bitters, cordials, and the like is condemned as "indefensible on rational grounds." Most of the artificially prepared pepsins and pancreatines are pronounced worthless. Bismuth "has been blindly handled, especially in combination with pepsin, whose action it neutralizes." What follows seems to us worth quoting in full:—

The nitro-muriatic and phosphoric acids are much better, and, if urgent need prevails, the administration of a soda or potassa salt for a short time will do much more service than either the subnitrate or the subcarbonate of bismuth. In all forms of dyspepsia strychnia or nux vomica is extremely valuable; and where acidity or constipation is present, very small doses of belladonna, with at times cascara sagrada, will remove the difficulty.

Regular exercise, especially equestrianism, is very efficient in atonic conditions, and, where this

cannot be had, walking, together with abdominal massage, is good. General faradization of the abdomen is an admirable method of toning up the peristaltic action, particularly in constipated patients; whilst galvanism is unusually efficient in hepatic torpor, and static electricity in my hands has acted promptly, thoroughly, and permanently in revealing the dyspepsia so common in nervous, hysterical school-girls. Where liver congestion exists to a decided degree, the employment of mercurials, such as calomel, blue mass, or hydrargum creta, is better avoided, because of their blood-defibrinizing quality, and recourse should be had to one or more of the efficient agents long used by the eclectic fraternity, and lately investigated in a series of exhaustive experiments by Rutherford and others. Of these, podophyllin, irisin, and euonymin are the most valuable; but I am in the habit of combining them with very felicitous results, and at the risk of being criticised I annex a favorite formula, used for many years; and it is, I may say, the only one approaching the so-called "shot-gun" prescription which I ever use, my habit otherwise being to order simply one ingredient, or at the most, and that rarely, three, in any one recipe:—

Cinchonidiae sulphatis,

Euonymin,

Irisin,

Leptandrin,

Juglandin. . . . . aa 3 ss

Podophyllin,

Ext. belladonnæ,

Ext. nucis vomicæ,

Ext. hyoscyami . . . . . aa gr. x.

M. In pil. no. 60 div.

Sig. One or two at bed-time.

Many a stubborn case of dyspepsia, that had run the gauntlet unavailingly of all sorts of peptonoids, has given way to this, and it is an admirable chologogue on general principles. In scrofulous subjects, with deficient nutrition, I have had much benefit from minute doses of mercuric bichloride (the one hundredth of a grain) in tinct. calumbæ comp., the dose being a drachm of the latter thrice daily. Within a few weeks a most interesting case, treated by several physicians for organic cardiac lesion, has recovered under the remedies just alluded to. The palpitation, the supposed dilatation with compensating hypertrophy according to canonical dicta, has subsided; the patient can lie down, and sleep too when recumbent; he has no night tremor or dread; he can run up-stairs or after a car; he can eat, drink, and be merry now, whereas before he was morose, taciturn, and a family nuisance; in short, he has dropped a minor dyspepsia, and with it a prognosed incurable heart-trouble. Dyspepsia, like charity, covers a multitude of troubles and sins, and a good deal of the "malaria" so fashionable with the fraternity, and with the laity also, is one or another form of indigestion.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*