

ON LINIMENTUM CROTONIS IN THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE BRONCHITIS.

Dr. R. Park, of Glasgow, Scot., contributes a paper to *Practitioner* in which he calls attention to a line of treatment which he says has been invariably successful in his hands during the last five years:

As soon as the patient comes under treatment, the chest, in whole or in part, is to be rubbed with two or three drams of lin. crotonis. If the patient is seen at the very earliest stage, when there is only a slight roughness and pain behind the sternum, then it will be enough to have it rubbed into the episternal hollow, along the clavicles, and down the front of the sternum as far as the ensiform cartilage. Otherwise the whole front of the chest, the sides thereof under the armpits, and the back between the shoulders should be rubbed. The best manner of application is by means of a tag of cotton wool saturated with the liniment and rubbed till it is dried up. Care should be taken, and the patient warned, not to let the liniment run down the loins and abdomen, which it is apt to do. Also the applying hand should be carefully washed immediately afterward. The application at once relieves the patient, and this relief is maintained and increased by having the surface rubbed covered over with a thin layer of absorbent cotton wool, properly retained to prevent shifting. For this purpose an old chamois leather vest answers well.

From repeated personal experience I know that the liniment applied in this way does not produce pain. Sometimes, after twenty-four hours or so, there is a feeling of tenderness or soreness; but if the cotton wool be not disturbed, and violent rubbing be not resorted to by the patient, this soreness is evanescent, and succeeded by an itching, sometimes very considerable, which remains for three or four days. It may be relieved by smearing the eruption over with fresh butter, lard, or vaseline under the cotton wool, care being taken, however, not to disturb the cotton where it has become adherent with discharge.

It is this persistence and continuity of effect which makes the application of such signal value, more especially for children and infants. So long as the irritation lasts, so long does the derivative action continue. But it has another great advantage, namely, that it enables the patient to go about his business. There is an impression abroad that it is dangerous for a patient to expose himself out of doors with an eruption such as that of lin. crotonis out upon him. Such an impression is quite erroneous. There is another prejudice against applying it to infants. I can only say that I have had it applied to scores of infants under twelve months, and have never once regretted the practice. On the other hand, I can remember many a time regretting having ordered a poultice under similar circumstances. For the relief of the cough I have prescribed this mixture, which has answered well:

R. Acidi. hydrobromici,	M lxxx;
Vini ipecac,	M c;
Tinct. belladonnæ,	Mxl;
Acidi hydrocyan. dil.,	Miv;
Syr. Scillæ,	3 jss;
Glycerini, q.s. ad, ..	5 ii.
Ft. Mist. Cujus cap. coch. min. j.	2 dis. horis.

THE LARGEST MAN IN AMERICA.

The largest man on this continent was the late Lewis Cornelius, of Pike County, Pa. He was considerably larger than Daniel Lambert. Mr. Cornelius' dimensions are entered upon the record books in the Prothonotary's office at Milford, Pike county, as follows:—

"Lewis Cornelius—Born 1794.

"Height, 6 feet.

"Circumference below waist, 8 feet 2 inches.

"Circumference above waist, 6 feet 2½ inches.

"Circumference of arm above elbow, 2 feet 2 inches.

"Circumference of arm below elbow, 1 foot 9 inches.

"Circumference of wrist, 1 foot 3 inches.

"Circumference of thigh, 4 feet 2 inches.

"Circumference of calf of leg, 2 feet 7 inches.

"Circumference of ankle, 1 foot 7 inches.

"Weight, without any clothing whatever, 645½ pounds."

This is the only authentic record of Mr. Cornelius' size extant. As he had been sick some time he lost over 50 pounds of his weight. He was not weighed until after his death, and when in full health would have tipped the scales at 700 pounds. His wife was a very slight woman, and weighed just 100 pounds.—*Philadelphia Medical Reporter*.

THE TREATMENT OF RINGWORM.

A writer in the British *Med. Journal* says: The difficulty experienced in the treatment of ringworm is known to every one who has seen much of this disease. I therefore think your readers will be glad to hear of a remedy which I have recently used with complete success. Struck with the similarity that exists between the disease known in the East Indies as *dobzitch* and ringworm, and knowing how rapidly the former yields to the application of goa powder, I was induced to try the active principle of this substance, chrysophanic acid, in the proportion of one dram to one ounce of vaseline. The result has been the rapid destruction of the fungus, and consequently a complete cure. Chrysophanic acid has been recommended in the treatment of psoriasis, but I am not aware of it having been used hitherto for ringworm.