

afflicted were supplied with milk by a certain dairyman. A visit to this dairyman's premises led to the discovery of a well horribly polluted with soakage from a filthy cesspit near it. This milk supply was stopped, and the epidemic ceased to spread.

I do not doubt that similar causes have operated here; but the successful means which Southport adopted to search them out are seemingly not at hand, and they probably operate still, in not only assisting typhoid to spread, but in being the direct cause of many of those disorders to which the infantile portion of our population is especially liable.

Those who believe that animals are subject to typhoid, of course point to unwholesome meat being a means by which the affection may spread. I do not think that we would be justified in supposing this to have had an influence in the present case.

HOSPITAL NOTES.

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The following are notes on cases at present in the General Hospital, under the care of Dr. I. H. Cameron; the treatment mentioned was adopted at his request.

Ammoniacal Inhalations.—It is an old idea that the atmosphere of stables and cow-houses, which contains the carbonate of ammonia in considerable quantity, is beneficial to those suffering from pulmonary phthisis. Recently Melsens conceived the idea that the moderate, but continuous inhalation of this salt might be useful in many affections of the respiratory organs. In order to prove the value of this form of treatment, he caused several patients, suffering from bronchitis, to wear outside their shirts, and over the upper part of the sternum, a bag containing some pieces of carbonate of ammonia, the almost invariable result was relief from the first day of wearing it. He also successfully tested the remedy in his own person, when suffering from bronchitis, as did also a Belgian physician in Brussels.

This treatment we adopted a few weeks ago in the case of two patients tormented with a distressing cough, one due to tubercular, the other to simple chronic bronchitis. During the

first night one of the patients complained of a sense of suffocation, and fullness of the head; on the day following, however, the cough appeared less troublesome in both cases, and at the end of ten days their sleep, which had previously been much broken by the cough, became comparatively undisturbed; the feeling of lassitude consequent upon the broken rest to a great extent disappeared, the expectoration became diminished in quantity, and instead of being greenish in colour, became almost white, and frothy in one, and disappeared in the other.

In ten or twelve days, the carbonate of ammonia—about ʒ iv.—had become entirely volatilized, the bags were not then refilled, and before a week had elapsed both patients were anxious to resume the treatment, one on account of a nasal catarrh, which had been much relieved by the ammonia, and both for the relief of the cough, which had increased while the treatment was omitted. The ammoniacal inhalation has since been resumed with the usual improvement.

We are inclined to believe that in this form of inhalation, we have a remedy calculated to palliate—in the majority of cases—that most distressing symptom of a disease so constantly fatal, and over whose course we have so little control.

Whilst special attention has been paid to its usefulness in the treatment of cough, due to tubercular bronchitis, we expect to hear of its success in the treatment of coughs due to chronic bronchitis, even when complicated by dilatation of the bronchi; it may also prove useful in the treatment of acute laryngitis, as narrated of a case in the *London Medical Record*.

Alcoholism and Pneumonia.—There appears to be a pretty widespread opinion that pneumonia in an alcoholic patient is a disease necessarily attended with a fatal result. This impression is, no doubt, true in the main; but the following is a brief history of a case which had a more fortunate termination, probably due to the patient's youth:—

W. W., aged 20, was admitted into the Hospital on Thursday night, the 29th December. As ascertained from himself, after convalescence, he had been given to drinking for three