

In certain districts pneumonia is often complicated with malarial fever, and is characterized by marked remissions and exacerbations. In such cases I found a combination of quinia, digitalis, and opium to answer admirably. I usually give five grains of quinia, with one or two grains of digitalis and one of opium every four hours. In most cases this course meets every indication, and from my observation they terminate more favorably, and in a shorter time, than uncomplicated cases. I seldom use purgatives in the treatment of pneumonia after the bowels have been once thoroughly evacuated; and if necessary to open them again, I prefer a fine laxative.

Stimulants are seldom necessary, and I think are often injurious if given in the early stage of pneumonia. In the advanced stage they are valuable, and in many cases indispensable. I prefer carbonate of ammonia and brandy to all others. Nourishment is an essential element in the treatment of all protracted cases, and milk is to be preferred to all other articles of diet.

The local treatment of pneumonia is of considerable importance, especially in pleuro-pneumonia, and all other cases attended by much pain. I generally rely upon cupping and sinapisms; if they fail to afford relief, I inject a solution of morphia under the skin, over the seat of pain; from a fourth to half a grain is sufficient. The inhalation of chloroform is also efficacious in such cases, and not only relieves the pain, but mitigates the fever, and I am inclined to think facilitates resolution of the inflammation. Warm applications are valuable in all cases, and should always be used when more active measures are not deemed necessary. In the advanced stage of the disease, when resolution is tardy, and effusion of serum takes place in the chest, I resort to free vesication. I have applied the tincture of iodine with very good effects in mild cases, and especially in the pneumonias of children—painting the entire walls of the chest two or three times a day. I have also used a liniment, in the cases of children and delicate females, composed of olive oil, turpentine, and ammonia.

Expectorants, as a rule, are not advisable, I never use them, except in the advanced stage of the disease, when the bronchial secretion is deficient and the cough troublesome. The position of the patient should be frequently changed in protracted cases, especially in children. Ventilation of the sick chamber should be thorough, and the temperature uniform at about sixty-five degrees of Fahrenheit.