

THERAPEUTIC NOTES.

Arsenic in Gastralgia.

Of all the directly curative results with which he is acquainted, Dr. Sawyer, (*The Lancet*), believes that one of the most demonstrable is that which can be produced by the suitable administration of arsenious acid in simple gastralgia. He gives one-twenty-fourth of a grain of arsenious acid made into a pill with two grains of extract of gentian, thrice daily between meals. The use of this remedy must be continued for a few weeks. In a case of moderate severity no other medicinal treatment is necessary. The gastralgic pains become less frequent and less severe, and recovery is steadily and surely attained. In severer cases he recommends the use of some form of counter-irritation to the epigastrium, and he usually employs a rubefacient liniment of ammonia. In the severest cases vesication by a fly-blister is of service, and the blistered surface should be kept raw for some days by means of a daily dressing of savin ointment. But treatment by drugs must not alone be relied upon. Every hygienic adjuvant which tends to raise the strength of the patient is of high value in the cure of gastralgia. It is especially necessary to make sure the sufferer feeds well and fully. The diet should be generous. A "dyspeptic" regimen makes a case of gastralgia worse. When we are satisfied there is no, or but slight, gastric catarrh in the gastralgia of a fairly vigorous adult, we should direct a dietary after this plan: Breakfast, bread-and-butter or dry toast, with some fresh white fish, or some cold chicken or game, or a mutton chop, with a breakfast-cupful of cocoa or weak tea or coffee. Dinner (1 p.m.), fresh beef or mutton, with bread, potatoes, cooked green vegetables, a fruit tart or a farinaceous pudding, with a glass of light bitter ale. Tea (5 p.m.), bread-and-butter or dry toast, with a small cupful of cocoa, tea or milk and water. Supper (not later than 9. p.m.), white fish, or some cold chicken or game, or a little cold meat, white bread and a glass of ale.

The Time for the Administration of Certain Medicines.

Sir Robert Christison in *Med. Waif*, Jan., says: Iodine and the iodides should be given on an empty stomach. If given during digestion the acids and starch alter and weaken their action. Acids, as a rule, should be given between meals.

Acids given before meals check the excessive secretion of the acids of the gastric juice. Irritating and poisonous drugs, such as salts of arsenic, copper, zinc and iron, should be given directly after meals. Oxide and nitrate of silver should be given after the process of digestion is ended; if given during or close after meals, the chemicals destroy or impair their action. Potassium permanganate also, should not be given until the process of digestion is ended; inasmuch as organic matter decomposes it and renders it inert. The active principle of the gastric juice is impaired and rendered inert by corrosive sublimate, tannin and pure alcohol; hence they should be given at the close of digestion. Malt extracts, cod-liver oil, the phosphates, etc., should be given with or directly after food.

Hydrochlorate of Apomorphine in Dry Cough.

The following is from *Medical Record per Medical Age*:—This drug has been extensively tried by Dr. Stocquart, of Brussels, as a remedy for certain kinds of cough, and he speaks highly of its value. The kind of cough in which it has proved most successful is a distressing and frequent hacking, unattended with expectoration, or with exceedingly difficult expectoration. The improvement of the patient's condition is usually effected in a few days. The drug is, as a rule, well borne, although a few individuals manifest a special susceptibility to its action, and rarely, nausea, colic, and diarrhoea result from its employment. The dose is a minute one, only about one-twentieth grain of this alkaloid being given in water in the twenty-four hours. As the solution rapidly alters by keeping, it is advised to prevent its decomposition by the addition of a few drops of hydrochloric acid, which does not interfere with the therapeutic effects.

The Diuretic Action of Calomel.

According to Dr. Silva, in *La Riforma Medica*, the diuretic action of calomel is due to a variety of causes. It induces increased activity of the liver in the production of glycogen and urea, causes a dilation of the renal vessels and irritates directly the epithelium of the convoluted tubules. This last named action is so marked that there may ensue, if the administration of the drug is too long continued in experiments upon dogs, a true glomerulonephritis. It is for this reason chiefly that the drug should be given only in cardiac troubles and is contra-indicated in renal disease.