

re-established. The case reported by Dr. Garratt we hope may stimulate to more thorough and prolonged efforts at restoration, in cases of apparent death from drowning, and it is probable that the persevering and skilful use of electricity may yet be found capable of saving many valuable lives, under such circumstances, that otherwise would have been lost.

Will a man live longer immersed in warm or cold water, is an interesting question. Garratt's patient was immersed in ice cold water. We have some remarks touching this subject, in the *REPORTER* for July 27th, and Professor W. H. Thayer, of Keene, N. H., has a very interesting article upon the treatment of asphyxia, in the April number of the *Berkshire Medical Journal*.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*.

EXTERNAL USE OF GLYCERINE.

THE difficulty in inducing diaphoresis in acute dropsy with albuminous urine has led to the trial of many plans of treatment, with more or less success. Besides the use of the ordinary sudorific drenches, various external remedies have been resorted to. Hot air, hot vapour, and hot water baths have sometime succeeded, but more frequently failed. I have lately tried the application of glycerine to the surface in some cases of this disease which have been under my care, and the result has been so satisfactory that I am induced to lay it before the profession. I may best explain its mode of use and its effects by giving a case in which it was applied with success.

G. W.——, aged 28, a remarkably strongly-built man, with great power of muscle, fair and fresh-coloured. Had been accustomed to drink hard for some years. A short time before his admission as an out patient at the Metropolitan Free Hospital (on November 1st), he left off drinking for fourteen days to train for a prize-fight, and having successfully accomplished the object of his ambition he again returned to his old habits. He states that he went to bed on Oct. 29th feeling quite as well as usual, and when he awoke in the morning he found his face and hand very much swollen. He says he "could not see out of his eyes for the swelling." The next day, his body and legs and also his loins became swollen. On first presenting himself at the hospital, his whole body was swollen. His breathing was much oppressed; tongue furred on the right half, the other half being clean. The urine was passed freely in natural quantity. On examination, its colour was that of brown sherry, specific gravity 1010; it became perfectly solid on boiling. Pulse 72. Nov. 8th: Finding himself no better, and his urine becoming scanty, he consented to come into hospital. The urine still became solid on being heated, and had a specific gravity of 1018. The skin was dry and harsh, as it had been from the first. I put him under the following treatment:—Compound jalap powder, one drachm and a half, in the morning. Liquor of acetate of ammonia, half an ounce; tincture of the sesquichloride of iron, twenty minims: three times a day. The whole surface of the body and limbs to be sponged with glycerine and water in equal parts, night and morning. The effect of the glycerine was soon developed in a free and gentle perspiration. The dropsy began rapidly to subside, the amount of albumen in the urine to diminish. The skin now feels natural, and performs its functions actively. It is probable that glycerine has a twofold action on the skin both tending to the same end—1st, it softens the cuticle and removes obstructions from the orifices of the sweat-ducts; 2ndly, it possibly acts by inducing the escape of fluid by exosmosis. I have used it in several cases of acute dropsy with albuminuria after scarlatina, with good results. I have not found it to produce any injurious effects in any case.—*Dr. Jones of the Metropolitan Free Hospital in Lancet*.