

nausea is present, the dose may be gradually lessened and the time shortened, giving the stomach a chance to dispose of it, and at the same time keeping up full treatment. By ordering the druggist to make a solution of the bichloride in alcohol of the strength of gr. j to f. 3 j, and dispensing from this, the weighing of a grain and fractional parts of a grain is avoided. Next in importance is a pleasant vehicle in which to give it; this we have in elix. bismuth and pepsin, or elix. of pepsin. Pepsin itself has a good influence in the disease, and is said to have the property of softening the membrane.

"In a mild case of diphtheria, I give a child 3 years old  $\frac{1}{16}$  of a grain, or in a malignant case  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a grain of bichloride of mercury in a teaspoonful of elix. of bismuth and pepsin every 3 hours. To an adult I give from  $\frac{1}{12}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a grain every 3 hours.

"The manner in which this dose is borne in a bad case of diphtheria is a matter of surprise to a physician using it for the first time. It rarely disturbs the stomach, and soon allays existing nausea. I have never seen it produce pytalism, and it seldom acts on the bowels more than is desirable. I generally order carbonate of magnesia to be given the first night, and after that the action of the bichloride keeps the bowels open. Under this treatment, when commenced early, in an ordinary case the patient will be convalescent by the end of the third day, but in more grave cases the medicine should be continued to the end of the fifth day—it rarely needs to be given longer.

"Where the disease has made considerable advancement, and the poison of the membrane is already being absorbed, as may be the case before the physician is called, the result may not be so satisfactory, and brandy and iron should be added to the treatment.

"If we assume that this treatment is no better in results than the general method in vogue, still it has many advantages that strongly recommend it.

"There is but one medicine to be given, and there need be no confusion or mistakes. No washes or gargles are needed; no swabs or probangs to be thrust down the throat to strangle and frighten the patient, and make him wish he was dead and at peace; no steaming; no atomizing; none of these—only a teaspoonful of not unpleasant medicine and two or three hours rest. While I hold that the corrosive chloride of mercury, given in large doses in the very early stages of diphtheria, is a specific, because, when so used, it prevents the generation of the poison in the membrane, and soon arrests its formation, yet membrane is often formed before we are called to the case, or before the remedy has had time to stop the process; and in this case it may involve the windpipe, or may be primarily formed there, causing diphtheritic croup; and a new danger arises from mechanical obstruction, for which the corrosive chloride gives no relief.

"The difficulty of breathing is common to all kinds of croup. It is as great for the time being in simple croup as it is in pseudo-membranous or diphtheritic croup. For this and other reasons it is held by good authority that the dyspnoea of croup is not due in the main or even in great degree to the mechanical obstruction of membrane in the windpipe, but is rather due to the spasmodic condition of the glottis, and of nervous origin. It is for the relief of this dyspnoea that we resort to tracheotomy, at all times a dangerous operation, and in diphtheritic croup almost hopeless. In any kind of croup the operation, if successful, only enables the patient to breathe. Its effect on the disease is rather to aggravate than otherwise. If we had a remedy that would control and relieve the spasmodic condition of the glottis in croup, we would have little need for this operation. And I think we have this in the chloride of gold. A few years ago I was using the chloride of gold, as recommended by Niemeyer in his practice, in some obstinate cases of hysteria, and observed that it had marked effect in nervous affections of the air-passages, and was thus led to try it in a bad case of diphtheritic croup, with good results.

"Since then I have used the chloride of gold in all cases of croup. In simple croup it acts as a specific, and nothing else is needed, and but few doses of this.

"The chloride of gold should be given in solution in distilled water. As it is very deliquescent and difficult to weigh, I direct the druggist to dissolve the contents of a 15 grain bottle,—as it comes from the manufacturer—in 15 drachms of distilled water, and dispense from this solution.

"A caution is necessary in administering—not to use a spoon, on account of the strong affinity the preparation has for metals, especially for silver. I direct it dropped in a glass with a little water, and as it is almost tasteless there is no difficulty in taking it. The dose may be from  $\frac{1}{15}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a grain every one to three hours."

#### WEAK HEART.

We take the following from the *Medical Press*, March 18, 1885:

Every physician in extensive practice is occasionally brought into contact with cases of heart failure, of which the essential nature is somewhat obscure, and which are frequently recorded, when terminating fatally, as angina pectoris. As an example of the kind of illness typical of such affections some such history as the following may be taken: An apparently healthy man of sixty or sixty-five, of florid build and choleric temperament, is attacked soon after the exhibition of unusual excitement, with acute pains over the cardiac region, accompanied by shooting pains down the left side and arm, and a general sense of oppression. There is no loss of consciousness, no actual paralysis, although some degree of numbness may be experienced in the hand, but without materially