

## PALPITATION OF THE HEART IN CHILDREN.

L. D'ASTROS has the following to say on the above subject : While palpitation of the heart in the adult is very frequently induced by causes lying outside of the heart, we find that in children latent or semi-latent affections of the heart frequently make themselves felt for years simply by palpitation ; to these may be added endocarditis, true mitral stenosis. Aside from true affections of the heart, which should be carefully sought for, in the first instance, digestive disturbances may also cause palpitation to a high degree (intestinal parasites), also an incipient (latent) pulmonary tuberculosis in young girls twelve to fifteen years of age at the beginning of menstruation, also chlorosis, and occasionally hysteria. It may, also be induced by physical over-exertion (wheeling), by masturbation, etc. Only after all these causes have been excluded are we justified in making a diagnosis of nervous palpitation of the heart. The treatment is, of course, to be directed as far as possible in the first instance to the cause, in nervous palpitation over-exertion from all kinds of mental or bodily exercise (wheeling) is to be avoided, and hydrotherapeutics of moderate duration and degree should be employed, and not too cold. Next to hygienic advice, which is of great importance, the most useful medicines are bromide of sodium, in doses of 0.5 to 1.0 gr. twice daily, and tincture of valerian in doses of two to three coffee spoonfuls. — *Annales de Médecine et de Chirurgie Infantiles ; Pediatrics* September, 1899.

## TREATMENT OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

Dr. Favill, in the *Four. Amer. Med. Asso.*, recommends that the bowels be emptied thoroughly, preferably with a mercurial, and that sodium salicylate be administered to its full analgesic effect, or, if it is not well borne by the stomach, oil of gaultheria. If salicylates are contra-indicated by cerebral conditions, antipyrin or some other coal-tar analgesic may be employed, and if these are contra-indicated by circulatory or nervous complication, opium may be used for the relief of pain. As the pain is controlled by these means, perhaps together with heat and immobilization, salicylates should be withheld and the system saturated with alkali until the active process seems controlled. Iron should be given simultaneously or subsequently if the conditions of the bowels and the liver permits. Throughout the attack intestinal hygiene should be promoted by means of a mercurial, cholagogue or saline. — *Medical Record*.