

hemorrhage will not amount to much, and should it become necessary to resort to means for its control, the parts are always accessible. Yet see that it has been checked before you leave your patient. In removal of these growths do not be too free with your scissors and encroach upon the verge of the anus, else as a result you may find, after the parts have healed, you have left your patient in a worse condition than before, by giving him a troublesome stricture of the anus. When you operate upon external piles, be sure you examine if the internal form of this trouble does not also exist; for if it does, and you neglect these, your operation will prove of but little avail.—*New York Medical Record*, Aug. 1, 1872.

CHOLERA INFANTUM.

BY HARVEY L. BYRD, M.D.,

Professor of Diseases of Women and Children in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore, Md.

This terrible scourge of infancy and childhood is carrying large numbers of the young and tender ones of this community to their long homes, and such is the extent of its ravages that it might be said with propriety of language to prevail at this time as an epidemic in our midst.

Baltimore, hygienically considered, is probably the equal in all, or at least very many, respects to her most favored sister-cities; but, while this is the case, the hand of the destroyer occasionally falls heavily upon her, and she is then called upon to mourn the loss of those she cannot rescue from the embrace of death. Since the event of summer the mortality has been considerable among infants and children one to three and four years old, but it is chiefly within the last three weeks that our mortuary tables exhibit a fearfully large proportion of death from cholera infantum. Within this period there has been not only a steady but an alarming increase in the death-statistics from this generally intractable and fatal malady. After resorting to the remedies most in vogue in the treatment of *summer-complaint*, such as calomel in minute and moderately large doses, alone and in combination with Dover's powder, chalk, charcoal, etc., bismuth, magnesia, pepsin, tannic and gallic acids, acetate of lead, alum, nitrate of silver, creasote, pyroligneous acid, laudanum, etc., etc., alone and in various combinations and mixtures, with indifferent or unsatisfactory results, even when strict attention was given to diet, fresh air, bathing, stimulants when called for, etc., it was finally decided to adopt a plan of treatment with special reference to an alterative action on the blood; at the same time giving strict attention to the skin with a view to the elimination of the poison, as far as might be, by this organ.

Accordingly, with the leading object in view, namely, an appeal to the blood primarily, sulphite of sodium and aromatic sulphuric acid were prescribed internally, and tepid or cold alkaline baths, according to indications, ordered externally, to which whiskey or brandy was added when required.

One grain of the sulphite, with four drops of paregoric, was given in gum-water every two hours, to a child one year old, and the dose doubled for a child two years old, increasing or lessening it according to age and the anodyne effects of the paregoric, thus:

℞ Sulphite of sodium, grs. xvi;
Pulv. g. acac., grs. xii;
Tinct. op. camph., fʒ i;
Water, ʒ ij.—M.

Sig.—One teaspoonful every two hours, to a child one year old, shaking the phial before using. One drop of elixir vitriol in three spoonfuls of iced water was given, three times a day, to a child one year old, and the dose increased one drop for each year and lessened to one-fourth or one-half drop when below one year of age. A tepid or cold bath, rendered alkaline with an ounce or more of carbonate of sodium, potassium, or common salt, was used morning and night. In addition to the foregoing remedies, aromatic cataplasms were ordered, and kept applied over the entire stomach and abdomen. Cow's milk and farinaceous articles of food not to be allowed, and scraped or finely-chopped beef, or lamb, raw or but partially cooked, or essence of beef (to which a small portion of brandy is to be added when required by the feebleness or prostration of the patient), used as much as practicable as nourishment. Wine-why allowed freely in the second stage of the disease, when it agrees with the patient. Infants were allowed the mother's milk, or that of a healthy wet-nurse, and fifteen to twenty drops of lime-water three or four times a day when the milk disagreed. This plan of treatment has been pursued for the past two weeks, with complete success. In a small proportion of cases, quinine, in appropriate doses, was also administered when a tendency to periodicity was observed.

Several of our confrères have been advised of this plan of treating cholera infantum as it exists in this city, and are satisfied with the results. It is proper to state that all the cases of the disease that have been treated thus far by the writer have been among the well-to-do and better classes of the community. Long experience in the treatment of epidemics of various kinds, particularly those of yellow fever, cholera, cholera infantum, etc., has satisfied your contributor that no single plan of treatment, however successful at one time, can be relied upon in all epidemics of the same kind, nor during the same epidemic in all cases; but he feels, nevertheless, that the demands of humanity and duty to a common profession conspire to prompt this communication to the readers of the *Medical Times*, so that such use of the remedies may be made in their cases as they may think proper or expedient in the future.

The course of treatment above detailed having thus far met the reasonable expectations of all the parties interested, it is devoutly to be hoped that no such modification or important change in the character of the prevailing epidemic may take place during its continuance as may render it less efficacious or successful in the future that it has proven