

DIET IN DISEASES OF THE KIDNEYS.

Sassjadke finds, that while vegetable diet diminishes the amount of albuminuria, it is not well borne for any length of time. Under its exclusive employment, nephritic patients soon become apathetic, and the blood pressure is diminished.

Animal diet is found to increase the amount of albuminuria, but on the other hand, it improves the general condition of the patient, and raises the blood pressure. A mixed diet has about the same effect as an exclusively animal diet.

Since we regard nephritis not as an affection of the kidneys only, but rather one involving the whole circulatory system, we must in the treatment not only prescribe substances which restrict the excretion of albumen, but we must also attempt, by suitable diet, to improve the general nutrition of the patient, and thus relieve the phenomena of ischæmia.

The mixed animal and vegetable is found to be most suitable for nephritic patients. Chestnuts have been found to lessen the amount of albumen in the urine.—*Wratsh. Centbl. f. Therap.—Med. Review.*

WHEN TO GIVE STIMULANTS IN FEVERS.

The *Therapeutic Gazette* discusses this subject, and very properly remarks: In the aged and debilitated, when attacked with pneumonia, typhoid or any other febrile disease of more than ephemeral duration, the expediency of early beginning a stimulating-treatment is everywhere recognized. The attending physician will be very chary in the use of veratrum or antimonials, and will from the very first order some wine or brandy, in such doses as will, in his judgement, sustain the heart and nervous system. Unfortunately, such persons are bad subjects for pneumonia or typhoid, and will often sink about the sixth or seventh day, despite the most careful supporting treatment.

Among the "classic" signs indicative of the necessity of stimulants, we have the dry, brown tongue, sordes in the mouth, stupor or sub-delirium, coldness of the surface, a peculiar fever odor, often present from the first, feebleness and irregularity of the heart's action. The quick, soft, compressible, wavy pulse calls for alcohol. Perhaps no better rules, based on the condition of the heart, can be formulated for the administration of stimulants than those which Stokes has laid down for our guidance. The following, according to him, are the physical signs which seem to indicate the early use of stimulants:

1. Early subsidence of the first sound, observed over the left ventricle. 2. Diminution of the first sound over the right ventricle. 3. The

heart acting with a single, and that the second, sound. 4. Both sounds being audible, but their relative intensity being changed so as to represent the action of the heart of a fetus *in utero*. 5. With these signs a progressive diminution of impulse, which occasionally becomes imperceptible, even when the patient lies on the left side.

As to the quantity of alcohol to be administered, everything will depend on the condition and previous habits and idiosyncrasies of the patient. An adult male patient, about the fifteenth day (or about the time of crisis) of typhoid fever, with nervous and circulatory symptoms, indicating a tendency to sinking, will often bear enormous quantities of alcohol, and it is not an uncommon event for patients in this condition to be dosed to the extent of a quart of wine or a quart of brandy in the twenty-four hours. The most judicious practitioners are disposed to exercise moderation in alcoholizing patients, even in states of astylosism, and believe that nothing is gained by exceeding an ounce of good whisky or brandy per hour; if this will not save life, more will be inefficacious.—*Med. Progress.*

THE PREVENTION OF OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

The *Revue Générale de Clinique et de Thérapeutique* gives the following treatment used by Valenta for the prevention of this dangerous affection of the new-born. After pointing out that Credé's method, that is, the instillation of solutions of nitrate of silver, possesses many dangers, he proposes that we replace the liquid by solutions of permanganate of potash. The solution which he employs is sufficiently concentrated to be of a dark red color. This is to be applied to the eyelids by means of a cotton tampon, and immediately afterwards by the aid of another tampon the conjunctival sac is to be cleansed. These operations should be performed immediately after birth if they are to be successful.—*Med. News.*

CARBOLATE OF CAMPHOR.

This preparation is made (*Therapeutic Gazette*, Feb., 1891.) by adding one part, by weight, of carbolic acid to three parts of camphor, setting aside for twenty-four hours, and straining through gauze. It is a permanent liquid, with a specific gravity of 99°. It is thoroughly antiseptic, and possesses unsurpassed germicidal powers. Locally applied to wounds, by means of cotton or gauze, it prevents suppuration. When kept in contact with the skin for several days it produced an eruption, which can, however, be prevented by mixing the liquid with oil. Injected hypodermatically, it gives the best results in aborting abscesses or boils and relieving pain.