

## Medicine.

### THE TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA.

Dr. J. Hall, in the *American Practitioner* says:—In the first or congestive stage of pneumonia in plethoric subjects, in healthy, non-malarial regions, blood-letting is a valuable therapeutic agent, but in the second stage, and in malarial regions, as a rule, it is hazardous. I have not practised blood-letting nor used tartar emetic in the treatment of pneumonia for ten years, because we have other therapeutical agents that answer better, and are attended by none of the dangers incident to the use of these agents. *Veratrum viride* and *digitalis* are the remedies upon which I rely to control the undue action of the heart and arteries. In the early stage of the disease, in robust subjects, after moving the bowels with a mercurial purgative, I give Norwood's tincture of *veratrum* in four-drop doses, with ten grains of nitrate of potash, and from a fourth to a third of a grain of morphia, every four hours, increasing the tincture two drops every dose until the pulse is reduced to sixty-five a minute, or nausea and vomiting occurs. I then reduce it to four drops, and continue it until the active stage of the disease has passed by; then I stop the *veratrum*, but continue the nitrate of potash, with from one to two grains of opium and half a grain of *ipceac.*; and where there is a tendency to asthenia I add two grains of quinia to each dose. Under this treatment, frank, uncomplicated cases of pneumonia have seldom failed to terminate by resolution in from six to twelve days. But in some cases it has failed, and the fever has continued, with derangement of all the secretions, and complete hepatization of a portion of the lung tissue. In such cases I have derived great benefit from the use of mercury, *digitalis*, and opium, with free vesication over the diseased lung. I usually give one grain of calomel, with two grains of *digitalis* and one of opium, every four hours, and continue until resolution is established, or the constitutional effects of the mercury are manifested. I then discontinue the mercury and add two grains of quinia to each dose, and continue until the febrile excitement is controlled.

In asthenic pneumonia of old or delicate subjects, after opening the bowels with castor-oil or Epsom salts, I usually rely upon *digitalis*, muriate of ammonia, and opium. I give from one to two grains of *digitalis* in substance, with ten grains of muriate of ammonia and one grain of opium, every four hours, and continue until the febrile excitement is controlled; I then stop the *digitalis* and add two grains of quinia to each dose, and continue until convalescence is established.