

In this connection, he would call the attention of the members to the use of digitalis. He had been employing an infusion of a drachm of the powder to twelve tablespoonfuls of boiling water; dose, a teaspoonful every two or three hours, according to the age of the patient. He hoped the members would try it and report their results. He had never seen any of the so-called cumulative effect of this remedy. He had used it in this way for many years, and always with markedly good results in twenty-four to thirty-six hours. He had previously employed the various modes of treatment suggested from time to time, but had never experienced so much satisfaction from any other remedial means.

Dr. Buck said he was in the habit of using liquor ammon. acetat. and neutral mixture aa $\bar{\text{ss}}$ ii, with a drachm of tincture of digitalis, a teaspoonful every two or three hours.

Dr. W. L. Atlee said that he was very much pleased with the remarks of Dr. Atkinson respecting the use of digitalis, as it confirmed his own experience. He had for many years been in the habit of using it in acute diseases, and in all cases of irritability of the heart. He preferred it to veratrum viride, as it is less liable to irritate the stomach, although he sometimes aids its action by administering small doses of the latter medicine at the same time. He had never seen an instance of its cumulative action.

Dr. Welch had recently met with a few cases of measles. He had quite lately treated three cases in the Municipal Hospital, which had been sent there as cases of smallpox. This mistake occurred in some twenty-five instances during the late epidemic. In regard to the treatment of scarlatina, he said that he had frequently heard the late Dr. Gebhard speak in very sanguine terms of the good results obtained by the use of digitalis. This always seemed to him very much like treating a single symptom of the disease, the rapidity of the heart's action. So far as this particular symptom is concerned he thought digitalis might be of service, but did not think it possessed any antidotal power over the poison of scarlatina.

Dr. Atkinson in reply said that he had come to regard digitalis as possessing some peculiar antidotal effect upon the poison of scarlatina. For this reason he preferred the powdered leaves in infusion. Of course he employed tonics, when demanded for the after-treatment. He uses this remedy in full doses until the pulse has come down to its normal rate; and then he reduces the dose or lengthens the interval, so as to keep the system under its influence.

Dr. Atlee asked Dr. Welch whether an eruption resembling measles did not sometimes precede the appearance of smallpox.

Dr. Welch in answer said the eruption of smallpox is frequently preceded by an eruption closely resembling measles. This usually fades out when the true eruption appears. Its presence is so frequently observed that it has received the name *roseola variolosa*.—proceeding Philadelphia County Medical Society.

TRACHEOTOMY.

Dr. M. O'Harra reported to the Philadelphia County Medical Society a case of successful tracheotomy, after which the following discussion ensued:

Dr. J. Solis Cohen stated that he had seen the case of Dr. O'Harra several times since the operation, and was in some doubt as to whether it were not a case of acute laryngitis of children, with submucous organizable effusion, resting this opinion on the absence of any evidence of membrane, the tenderness externally, the immediate recuperation after the operation, the impossibility of respiration without the tube for so long a time, and the swollen condition of the upper portion of the larynx which had prevented laryngoscopic inspection of the interior. He had no doubt as to the propriety of the operation, and believed that cases of simple inflammatory laryngitis were not relieved from suffocation by tracheotomy, because they were mistaken for croup, which many think impossible to overcome by the operation. Persons who have been unfortunate in their first few tracheotomies for croup were too apt to abandon the operation, yet several prominent tracheotomists had lost numbers of cases before they had succeeded in saving one, but still they persisted; and, as the result of the several hundred operations, their success had reached the average proportion. He had referred to the retention of the tube. In some undoubted case of croup there had been, for various reasons, an impossibility to breathe without the tube, though in most instances it could be removed from the fifth to the ninth day, and, exceptionally, much earlier.

The operation should be performed early, before the blood was poisoned by the retained carbonic acid; but cases had been saved at the last extremity. Continuous and increasing dyspnea with sub-thoracic inspiratory sinking-in, would, he believed, indicate the time for operation, provided these symptoms had existed two or three hours, or even only an hour, and remained insusceptible to the ordinary modes of relief. When the propriety of the operation suggested itself for the first time, there was little time to lose; too long a delay might compromise the result. He believed a great deal of success depended on the after-treatment. The patient, his disease, and for the first day or two his tube, particularly needed attention. He believed that the surgeon, or a competent and responsible medical representative, should stay by the patient the first night after the operation; and, in some cases, the second night also. Cases are sometimes lost by allowing the tube to become stopped up, and the patient dies in the very condition for the relief of which the operation was instituted. He was not prepared to assert that these patients would have lived if the after-attention had been everything that could be desired; but he did believe that they did not obtain a fair chance for their lives. With regard to the statistics on the subject, it was hard to get much satisfaction from them, except that cases were saved; and Dr. Cohen said that he was of the opinion of those who were satisfied with this fact, without inquiring as to the proportionate number saved. The published statistics of the Parisian hospitals, and of