

saline character leaving a not unpleasant impression on the mouth. It was combined as follows:

R Propylaminæ chloridi, gr. xxiv;
Aq. menthæ piperitæ,
Aquæ, aa fʒ iij.

M. Sig.—A tablespoonful every two or three hours.

The dose of propylamine is six drops, similarly prepared and administered. Giving the chloride as above, two grains every two hours, and swathing all the joints in cotton batting, benefit was apparent in the first twenty-four hours. For the pleurodynia a weak sinapism was applied to the chest for fifteen or twenty minutes, followed by a warm mush cataplasm. These were alternated occasionally through the day. In the one case ten days elapsed, when I could pronounce my patient well; in the other, five days passed, when she was entirely convalescent. A tonic of quinia is advisable when rheumatic symptoms have subsided. No disturbance or appreciable influence was manifested in the therapeutic action of the propylamine, other than a gradual abatement of fever, pain, swelling, and all the distressing nervous concomitants of acute articular rheumatism.

Would it have been a wise practice to abandon such cases to *palliatives and nature*, and allow them to run on indefinitely for weeks or months, terminating, in all probability, after a uselessly protracted suffering, by leaving the system more liable to renewed attacks, and the wretched accompaniment or prospective of valvular lesion of the heart, involving hypertrophy of that organ, with its fleshy columns and tendinous cords, and possible dilatation, often vaguely recognized, but not inaccurately designated, a rheumatic heart?

The good old Spanish maxim may convey a hint for some therapeutists to ponder: *Ciencia es locura si buen senso no la cura.*

Shadyside (Penllyn P. O.), Montgomery Co., Pa.—*Phil. Med. Times*, May, 1879.

HOW TO MAKE TROUSSEAU'S CATAPLASM.

Dr. Dieulafoy (*Lyon Méd.*, January 26, 1879), who has frequently applied this cataplasm with much success, gives the following directions for its preparation: Take, according to the size of the affected articulation, three or four pounds of bread—four pounds are sufficient for the knee-joint, two pounds for the wrist. Cut it into pieces, removing carefully the hard portions of the crust, and soak the bread for about a quarter of an hour in water. It is then taken out, tied into a cloth, and squeezed to express a part of the water absorbed, so that the bread remains moist, but not too wet. It is then put into a steam bath, and allowed to remain there for three hours, when it becomes like dry paste, which is softened by the addition of camphorated alcohol. This dough is then kneaded for about five minutes, till it is of the

consistence of plum pudding. This is the most delicate point in the making of the cataplasm, because if it is too soft it will give way, and spread out under the pressure of the dressing, and if it is too hard it is apt to crumble and break into small pieces, which might injure the skin. The degree of consistency of the cataplasm must, therefore, be very carefully supervised, because, unless one is in the habit of making it, there is always a tendency to make it too soft, either because the bread has not been squeezed sufficiently before having been put into the steam bath, or because too large a quantity of camphorated alcohol has been poured upon it. The dough, having thus been prepared, it is spread on a linen bandage in the shape of a rectangle, large enough to cover the whole of the joint. The poultice must be at least one-third of an inch thick at the edges, in order to prevent the thinner portions from drying too quickly.

The surface of the cataplasm is then painted with the following liquid mixture: camphor, seven grammes; extr. op., five grammes; extra. bellad., five grammes; alcohol, q. s.

This being done, it is applied by being put over the affected joint, and covered by non-evaporant covering. The whole is then firmly fixed by means of a long flannel bandage, over which is placed a linen one of the same length. These bandages vary in length, according to the size of the joint, and, consequently, to the size of the poultice. The joint having been thus bandaged, it must remain perfectly immovable; the compression, although firm, must not cause the underlying parts to become œdematous; this may be prevented, however, by bandaging them also. In order to prevent the layers of the bandages from slipping, they must be sewn to each other. The cataplasm then remains in the same position for eight or ten days, after which time it is removed, and found to be fresh and moist as if it had been just applied; it still smells of camphor, and does not present the least trace of mould. The skin which has long remained in contact with it is perfectly healthy, unless the cataplasm should have been too thin at the edges, thereby either drying too soon, or giving way under the pressure of the bandage, and causing the skin to excoriate. This is Trousseau's cataplasm. At first sight it may appear too expensive for poorer patients, because the cost of the material amounts to from two-and-sixpence to five shillings, if the appliance is made in a hospital. If, however, we consider that the expense having been once incurred, the cataplasm remains in its place for at least eight days, during which time no other medicine is given, we are soon convinced that it is even cheaper than most other appliances. The indications for the use of this cataplasm are so obvious that they need not be repeated here. In every kind of chronic or subacute inflammations of the joints, when other means, such as blisters and cauterization, have proved unsuccessful, and even in the first instance, Trousseau's cataplasm will be found most useful and advantageous.—*London Med. Record*, March 15, 1879.