

sequence of exposure to cold, would be almost infinitesimal. The probability that one at least would take a common catarrh, bronchitis, rheumatism, or other usual consequence of exposure, would be extremely strong.

We make no attempt to settle problems which are still insoluble with the evidence at our disposal. We think, however, that much light might be derived from a thorough investigation of the etiology in all sporadic cases of pneumonia, and still more from a diligent inquiry into all instances where the disease assumes the form of an epidemic. In this work every physician in general practice might aid.—*British Medical Journal*.

A NEW "SYSTEM" OF GASTRIC THERAPEUTICS.

One may well listen with respect to the teachings of a physician who has cured over one hundred cases of gastric ulcer. This is what Professor Leube, of Germany, claims to have done (*Bull. Gén. de Thérap.*, Jan. 30, 1886). Professor Leube is a specialist in the department of gastro-enteric pathology. He preaches a gospel of which the three chief points are the need of accurate diagnosis, strict regimen, and copious use of the stomachal siphon. Professor Leube is one of those who have introduced a system into practice, based, like all systems, on the belief that its adoption will cure most cases of the diseases for which it is intended. Already there are establishments in Germany instituted with the sole object of treating gastric disorders according to the *régimes de Leube*.

Prof. Leube has had an excellent training in physiological and chemical science, and having devoted himself largely for fifteen years to the subject of digestive disorders, it is not surprising that he should have evolved a "system" that merits attention.

The therapeutic principles upon which Professor Leube depends are four in number:—1. Dietary regulations; 2. The use of the stomach-tube; 3. The use of hydrochloric acid and pepsin; 4. The use of various other drugs, such as powders, bitters, etc.

Preliminary to all treatment it is considered absolutely essential to make a correct diagnosis

of the form of gastric trouble. To facilitate this the stomach-tube is used, and seven hours after a meal that organ is washed out. If there remain any food at this time it is an evidence of digestive trouble. By using various foods, and then subjecting the stomach to the seven-hour test, a list of most digestible substances is obtained. On the basis of many such experiments, Leube constructs his different regimens. They are as follows:—

Regimen I. Soup (*bouillon*), meat-juice, milk, raw and soft-boiled eggs, unsweetened crackers, and mineral waters. The digestibility of meat solution as compared with light foods, such as calves' brains, rice, and chicken, was shown by many clinical examples as well as by experiments. A few patients, however, through some idiosyncrasy, cannot digest milk or eggs.

The diet above given is suitable for chronic catarrh and gastric ulcer. After it has been persevered in for about ten days, Regimen II. is introduced. This consists of boiled calves' brains, boiled sweetbreads, boiled chicken, and boiled pigeon. They are digestible in the order given. The chickens must be young and the skin must not be eaten. Well boiled soups were also permitted; and for the evening repast soups, with milk, tapioca, beaten eggs, and calves' feet. This regimen, to which may also be added Regime I., gives a considerable variety. Treatment may be commenced with Regimen II. if the stomach-washings show the inutility of the first. The patient should live upon these regimens for several weeks, or until his digestive powers will take care of them easily. Then he enters upon Regimen III.

Regimen III. This consists of Regimen II. with the addition of raw or very rare beefsteak. The best way of preparing it is to scrape as much meat from the raw steak as can be removed easily, and heat it up rapidly in a small quantity of fresh butter. Raw ham, scraped and cooked in the same manner, is also good, strange as it may appear. The ham must be tender. A small amount of mashed potato is allowed, a little bread (not too fresh), and small quantities of tea or coffee with milk.

Regimen IV. Roast chicken, pigeon, venison, partridge, hare, rare roast-beef (it is best cold), leg of veal, small fishes, macaroni, and soup,