

The treatment is usually first to relieve the paroxysm. For this purpose the fumes of bibulous paper soaked in extract of Stramonium seeds, belladonna leaves, nitre, and then dried. Chloral bromides, lobelia, cocaine, atropine, morphine, caffeine, Hoffman's anodyne, apomorphine, may alone or in combinations break up an attack. In the intervals counter-irritation over the cervical region is of much value. The drugs that do most good are the arseniates, strychnine, quinine, brucine, grindelia robusta, the iodides and electricity. Regular exercise and baths are of much service. Flannels should be worn. The writer has found benefit from the hypodermic injection of 1-100 atropine during a spasm. This paralyses the nerve-endings of the vagus, and gives relief. The following formulæ are recommended: A capsule containing two grains lactopneum, one grain quinine, three grains muriate of ammonia, one-eighth grain capsicum, one twenty-fourth grain strychnine four times a day, and pot. iodid. grains XC, Fowler's solution ℥i., Hoffman's anodyne ℥iiss., tr. belladonna ℥ii., sq. arrant amar. ad. ℥vi., two teaspoonfuls in water an hour after meals.

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ON THE METHODS OF EMPTYING AN OBSTRUCTED BOWEL.—Dr. W. Thornley Stoker (*British Medical Journal*, January 26th) thinks that there is too free a resort to operation in general, and that some cases of acute obstruction could be relieved that are now operated upon by other means. There are cases of extreme distention of the bowel, and very large accumulation of faecal matter. The peristalsis of the bowel has been poor, and finally the condition of "ileus paralyticus" is produced. In these cases of faecal distention the writer, by the way, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, holds that laparotomy is an extremely fatal operation, and should only be undertaken when other legitimate means have failed. The application of heat and rubefacients, the author contends, does no good. They sometimes cause such redness as may obscure the diagnosis. If poultices or massage be employed, they should be used so as to soothe and stimulate, and not to irritate. Belladonna is a valuable drug when given sufficiently early. It should be given without opium. It relieves pain and increases peristalsis. When there is much distention by faeces and flatus, it does its work. It must be pushed by full doses frequently given until the physiological effects of the drug are induced. It is worthy of remark that this drug is well borne in acute cases of obstruction. It strengthens the weak heart in these cases. Of opium the writer entertains "a respectful terror." When the pain