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ART. XLIV.—*On the treatment of Chronic Hydrocephalus, by the Iodide of Potassium.* By JAMES LISTER, M.D., C.M., Belleville, C.W.

It will be the object of the following pages to shew the advantages of a mode of treatment of the disease in question, which has not yet been noticed by systematic writers on the Practice of Medicine; and if alluded to in some medical publications, has not had the importance attached to it which, in the opinion of the writer, it certainly deserves.

As the present paper is written with a practical object, it will not be deemed necessary to enter into a lengthened description of the history, causes, frequency, symptoms, prognosis, and diagnosis, of Chronic Hydrocephalus; these are known to every medical man, and will therefore be passed over.

The disease is one which manifests itself in a clear and palpable manner; and the return to a healthy state shews, in an equally marked way, the powerful influence exerted by the remedial agent recommended.

A short review of some of the remedies which have been in traditional use, will first be made, and I shall then proceed to show the superiority of the method of treatment above alluded to.

“The internal remedies by which most good appears to have been effected, and from which therefore most is to be hoped, are diuretics, purgatives, and above all, mercury, which is believed by many to have a special and powerful influence in promoting absorption. Conjointly with these the abstraction of small quantities of blood from the head, by means of leeches, has been found beneficial.” So writes Doctor Watson on the subject, and after giving two cases of the disease where a peculiar method of administering crude mercury in conjunction with fresh squills and manna, was found useful, alludes to the mechanical remedies of bandaging and tapping.

The above extract it is believed contains the names of most of the remedies in ordinary use among medical men, and if to the list just mentioned, counter-