

ful results. These remedies are especially serviceable in the nocturnal forms of the disease, and, in fact, are to be commended in the treatment of attacks of an irregular character.

I will caution you against giving the bromides with the mere idea of exhausting, as it were, or stamping out the disease. It is of the utmost importance to combine with them cod-liver oil or some other fat-making material which improves the nutrition of the nervous substance. It has been my good fortune in many instances, where the bromides have been given in excessive doses (even to the point of producing full bromism, and yet without producing any apparent effect upon the disease) not only to materially diminish the number of seizures by reducing the quantity of bromides administered—and giving cod-liver oil, cream, extract of malt, or linseed oil—but to decidedly improve the general health of the patient.

Should the cases in which we have satisfied ourselves that there is no exciting cause to be removed resist this plan of treatment, we may resort to the use of the actual cautery, or apply repeated blisters to the back of the neck. But in many cases even these remedies do but temporary good, and the result of our treatment must be discouraging.

From recent trials it would seem that curare is indicated in these obstinate cases, and a standard solution, acidulated with dilute hydrochloric acid, may be hypodermically injected every fifth day in doses of one-third of a grain until five or six doses are given. In the lighter forms of the disease the use of the fluid extract of ergot in dram doses, three times a day, alternated with tincture of belladonna in five-drop doses and gradually increased in quantity, afford very satisfactory results when the bromides are apparently inert.

*Cannabis indica* has also been recommended and successfully used by Sinkler, of Philadelphia.

If the disease has appeared in a patient over twenty years of age, especially when the characteristics of the disease are such as I have described when speaking of syphilis as a cause, we may use the combined iodide and bromide treatment, or, better still, the bichloride of mercury. One secret of success in the management of this form of the disease, and, in fact, nervous syphilis in general, is to push the administration of the iodides as far as we can safely go, and this must be done rapidly. Whatever you do in the treatment of this discouraging affection, be consistent and methodical. It is extremely injudicious to make changes and try new combinations when the patients are doing apparently well, or even some time when no change follows, or to relax your vigilance over the invalid's personal habits. For epilepsy is essentially, a disease, as I believe, in which there is a habit, if it may be so called. In many cases, in fact in a large proportion of all, there is a regular recurrence of the fit; and every day gained after the time when the attack usually occurs is to the patient's advantage, and helps to break up the tendency to regularity.

#### TREATMENT OF OBSTINATE VOMITING BY SMALL DOSES OF IODIDE OF POTASSIUM.

Having noticed in the *Record* of March 15th, under the above heading, an article taken from a statement made by Dr. Fornica Corsi in the *Gazette Obstetricale*, and having a patient suffering from obstinate and intractable vomiting arising from spinal inflammation, and having exhausted all the remedies ordinarily employed as anti-emetics, without the least amelioration in the symptoms, I determined to try the iodide in the minute doses recommended by Dr. Corsi. The vomiting had occurred immediately after taking food of any description, quantity and quality making no apparent difference. Vomiting occurred with very little effort, nausea persisting for only a short time after the contents of the stomach had been entirely rejected. This state of things had existed for at least two months, in which time she had retained only an occasional mouthful of food. After the use of injections of beef tea and egg for several days, during which time nothing but a little drink was allowed by the stomach, one or two meals were retained, but the vomiting commenced again, and continued up to the time of the administration of the iodide. I gave it in solution, in doses of  $\frac{1}{36}$  grain, repeated every hour and a half; and since then—now fourteen days—she has retained every thing she has taken, excepting one or two meals, when she had omitted the drug for a few doses at my request, as a test.—George Huntington, M.D. in *Medical Record*.

#### THE TREATMENT OF INDOLENT ULCERS BY MEANS OF SHEET LEAD.

A good deal of attention has been attracted during the past year to the American treatment of indolent ulcers by means of Dr. Martin's India rubber bandages, and the reports received on all sides as to the value of this method are eminently satisfactory. I would, however, urgently request that a trial be given to the system which I was in the habit of adopting in all such cases at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham, some thirteen years ago, viz., the application of sheet lead, molded to the shape of the leg, and kept on by an ordinary calico bandage. The size of the lead should be sufficient to cover the ulcer completely and lap it a little over the whole skin; the edges and angles should be well rounded, so as not to chafe or irritate; it should be about an eighth of an inch in thickness, and moulded very accurately to the shape of the leg, so as to allow of no indent being apparent on the surface. After it has been carefully fitted, the leg should be bandaged from the toes upward, and all that then need to be done is to uncover the ulcer night and morning and allow some water from a sponge to trickle over it. The granulations should never be touched with the sponge itself. I believe that the rationale of this treatment is pressure, the same as in the case of the elastic bandage, though there may be also some action produced by the secretions upon the lead, as is said to