

appeared in the *Lancet*, Jan. 16, 1869, it which he strongly condemned this mode of treatment.

The treatment he recommends is at first a piece of emplastrum plumbi with a hole in the centre; then resin cerate on lint, covered over with a large poultice (half linseed and half bread); and then, later, the careful application of carbolic acid lotion, or some other deodorizing fluid. With these measures must, of course, be combined cleanliness, fresh air, and a careful regulation of diet.

I have found, however, that the duration of carbuncle is very materially diminished, and its extension cut short, by preceding this treatment by the application of nitrate of silver freely over its surface, repeated, if necessary, once or twice after intervals of two days. Immediately after the application, a small soft pad of dry lint is applied and retained by means of a piece of strapping and a bandage. The after-treatment is the same as Sir James Paget recommends, except that the poultice will be unnecessary, and the internal administration of iron or other tonic will generally be found useful.

Boils are treated in the same way, and will seldom require a second application of the caustic.

The *modus operandi* of the application of nitrate of silver in these cases seems to be the energetic stimulation, and consequent contraction, of the capillaries and small arteries of the part, whereby engorgement is diminished, the vessels are placed in a condition for returning to a healthy function, and morbid exudation is diminished, arrested and removed.—*London Practitioner*.

#### INTERNAL HÆMORRHOIDS TREATED WITHOUT OPERATION.

During the last year, Dr. John Beekman treated at the New York Dispensary eleven cases of internal hæmorrhoids, all occurring in females, and all treated without operation. In every case, the only internal medication consisted in the following formula:

R Pulv. sennæ,  
Potass. bitartrat.,  
Pulv. sulphuris.....aa 2 oz.  
Pulv. zinziberis..... ½ oz. M.

This preparation is designated in the Dispensary Pharmacopœia as *Pulvis Sennæ Compositus*. The dose, as employed by Beekman, was a teaspoonful of the powder, in molasses, every morning. The local treatment consisted in the use of the following ointment:

R Ext. Belladonnæ,  
Plumbi acetatis.....aa 2 dr.  
Acid tannic..... ½ oz.  
Ung. adipis..... q. s.

Ut fiat unguentum.

A small mass of the ointment to be introduced within the anus thrice daily, after a thorough ablu-tion of the parts with cold water.

The duration of the treatment was quite various, bearing a direct ratio to the severity of the case, ranging from a week to about five weeks. As far as could be ascertained, recovery took place in every

instance, and no case of relapse has thus far come to Dr. Beekman's notice. A few of these patients suffered from hæmorrhage, but not to an excessive amount. Instead of the ointment above mentioned, Dr. Beekman uses, in private practice, suppositories made up of the same ingredients, with the exception that cocoa butter is substituted for the simple ointment—each suppository containing two grains each of the extract of belladonna and acetate of lead, with four grains of tannin.—*Medical Archives*.

#### COLD-WATER TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER.

Dr. E. Scholz, it is stated (*Deutsches Archiv f. Klin. Med.* ix.), since the year of 1868, when he introduced the cold-water treatment of typhoid fever into the Bremen Hospital, has treated 125 patients—82 men and 43 females—the majority of whom were aged between 15 and 30 years. Of these cases, five, or about four per cent., terminated fatally. The temperature of the cold baths into which the patients were immersed varied from 8° to 16° R., according to the season of the year, and according as the medium temperature of the patient's body throughout the day exceeded or fell short of 39° C. In severe cases, in addition to the cold bath, cold applications were made to the chest, and over the abdomen. The leading circumstance which, according to Dr. Scholz, contraindicates the employment of cold baths, is the occurrence in any case of intestinal hæmorrhage, because of the necessity of the patient being then kept in perfect quietude; but even in such cases the application alone of ice to the abdomen will be found beneficial, and may be continued until the debilitating effects from the loss of blood are recovered from. It may also be remarked that the cold bath is inadmissible in those rare cases where the fever attacks individuals of broken-down constitutions, drunkards especially, and the temperature of whose bodies continues depressed, seldom rising to 39° C. Dr. Scholz relates a case of this kind, in a girl 19 years old, who was destroyed by the cold bath. She was affected with emphysema of the lungs.

The statements of Dr. Scholz as to the beneficial soothing influence of the cold water treatment in typhoid fever upon the functional nervous centres, and upon the digestive and cutaneous systems, are fully borne out by the history of the cases that were subjected to it. It is said by Dr. Scholz, that of five cases attended with intestinal hæmorrhage in which the remedy employed was the liq. ferri sesquisulph., only one terminated fatally. In some severe cases of the fever, occurring mostly in delicate females, on the eighth or tenth day of convalescence there was experienced severe dental hyperæsthesia.—*Centralblatt f. d. Med. Wissenschaften*, February 24, 1872.

#### COLD WATER TREATMENT OF ABDOMINAL TYPHUS IN THE ROYAL JULIUS HOSPITAL AT WURZBURG, DURING THE YEARS 1870-71.

Dr. F. Riegel states in the (*Deutsche Archiv f. Klin. Med.*, ix., 1871), that the cold-water treatment of abdominal typhus was marked by considerable mildness. The temperature of the "half