

THE INFLUENCE OF STROPHANTHUS ON UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.

A. Williams M.D., of Elk Ridge, Md., read the following paper before the Baltimore Medical Association :—

In strophanthus we have one more drug that can be added to the small number that in any degree control the discharge of blood from the uterus. In properly selected cases it has a decided influence to stop and control uterine hæmorrhage. The cases are such as have been very much debilitated from long continued and profuse menstruation, or from loss of blood at other than menstrual periods where the uterus is heavily congested, a condition common to these patients. In these it acts well.

In the treatment of these cases it is essentially important that they be made to lie down or be put in bed to rest, for the best results are not obtainable when the woman is allowed to be about.

I think strophanthus acts through its influence on the general circulation, which is that of a heart stimulant or tonic. Through this action on the feeble circulation, found in these cases, blood stasis and local congestions are removed.

It is best administered in the form of a tincture or of powdered seed. Of the tincture (strength 1 to 20), 5 to 6 drops, can be given every six hours. Of the powder, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ grain, at the same intervals, though I have given as much as one grain with satisfactory results.—*Maryland Med. Jour.*

THE TREATMENT OF CARBUNCLES.

Dr. E. P. Hurd says: The method of crucial incisions has long been a favorite method of treating carbuncles, and certainly, when thoroughly done, greatly abbreviates the duration of the malady. Some time ago I remember to have read in some medical journal a recommendation not to poultice a carbuncle when opened, but to apply a large sponge wet in some disinfectant solution, carbolic acid or corrosive sublimate. This is a very sensible procedure, as I can testify from experience. The sponge should be large enough to completely cover the carbuncle and may be cut into shape so as to fit over it like a cap. Before being applied, it is dipped into a sublimate solution, 1 part to 2000, or a two per cent. carbolic solution; a little iodoform may then be dusted into the cavity of the carbuncle, down to the bottom of the incision, and the sponge is then adjusted and confined by a few turns of a roller bandage. There is no need of poulticing, for pain and tension are removed by the incisions; the microbes are more effectually stopped in their destructive depredations by the antiseptic liquid which is thus enabled to penetrate every part, than they can be by any other method; the dead shreds of tissue will rapidly separate under

the disinfectant dressing, and all the discharges will soak into the sponge and be kept from putrefaction. Night and morning the dressings are renewed; the sponge, full of purulent matter is thrown into a bucket of boiling water, and afterwards cleansed and again soaked in the sublimate solution for a fresh application. Simultaneous with the separation of sloughs, granulations make their appearance, and *restitutio ad integrum* rapidly takes place.—*Medical Age.*

TREATMENT OF ACNE WITHOUT ARSENIC, SULPHUR OINTMENTS OR LOTIONS.

Dr. G. H. Fox, in a paper read before the Medical Society of the County of New York, said :—

It was not to be inferred from the title that he objected to the use of arsenic, sulphur ointments, or lotions; he simply believes their field of usefulness to be limited. On the average, it is probable arsenic does more harm than good in these affections, because it is administered without discrimination.

He divided acne, for convenience in treatment, into two forms, the irritable and the indolent. In the irritable form the skin is usually fine and soft, quickly inflamed by applications, and admits of no other than the most soothing treatment. This form of the disease is largely of a reflex nature, due especially to disorders of digestion and of the sexual organs. It is chiefly benefited by diet and internal remedies. The indolent form shows usually a coarse, doughy, often greasy skin. In these cases the glands, which are the seat of comedones and pustules, should be evacuated; in other words, the skin should be kept clean; soap and water ointments and lotions are not sufficient.

Most physicians place much reliance upon arsenic as an internal remedy in acne, but on the whole it is probable that patients would get along better if it were unknown. Sulphide of calcium has been recommended highly, but is likely to lead the physician to neglect more important measures. Ergot possesses greater value than is generally attributed to it, its chief benefit being achieved in the indolent form. In irritable acne, Dr. Fox now seldom uses the many internal remedies with which he has formerly experimented. The chief principles of treatment to be followed in acne, are the regulation of the diet and the use of local massage. Massage can be applied by squeezing out the comedones, emptying the pustules, and scraping with the round curette, kneading with the fingers, etc. But no fixed plan of treatment can be laid down for all cases.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*