

HOSPITAL NOTES.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL, N. Y.

NOTES OF PRACTICE AND PECULIARITIES OF TREATMENT.

Pneumonia.—The plan of treatment ordinarily adopted in the treatment of this disease is to give the patients three grains of quinine three times per day, simply for its supporting effect; if the temperature gets up to 104° or 5°, reduce it by rubbing them over with cacao butter, which operates very nicely indeed when used for that purpose; feed them well, and that is about all.

The treatment is simple, but the results are gratifying.

Delirium Tremens.—Most of these patients, it is said, will require some stimulants. A man was receiving $\mathfrak{zj}$. three times a day. Hydrate of chloral, bromide of ammonium and potassium, and other remedies which naturally suggest themselves to the mind of the practitioner, are used if the patient requires anything besides the care and quiet of the hospital to secure sleep.

Scarlatina.—The remedial measures employed in this affection are in keeping with the generally received doctrine that it belongs to a class of diseases called self-limited; hence all the duty of the physician consists in guiding his patients among the shoals and rocks to which they are exposed during their perilous voyage.

About $\mathfrak{zj}$. of cacao butter is used as an unction twice a day to relieve the high temperature, and after this the symptoms are met as they arise.

This article of butter of cacao receives a hearty recommendation as an agent to be used for the reduction of the temperature in this class of cases.

Acute Articular Rheumatism.—When one of these patients is brought in with joints swollen and tender and painful, and motion about suspended, in short, with all the phenomena of an attack of acute articular rheumatism, he is immediately placed upon a treatment which consists in the administration of iodide of potash in fifteen grain doses every two hours, and sulphate of quinine gr. x, alternately, every two hours.

This is continued until the acute symptoms subside. It is expected that this will take place within fifty-six hours, and is discontinued at the end of this time in case the acute symptoms do not yield. In most cases the acute symptoms are completely subdued within twenty-four or forty-eight hours, and the patients feel comparatively comfortable. This, with a certain sense of propriety, might be regarded as heroic treatment, yet the results sanction and commend its adoption.

The local treatment scarcely goes beyond covering the joints with cotton. Later in the treatment colchicum enters, and is regarded as a useful adjuvant to the salts do much better when combined with colchicum, than when they are used alone.

Night Sweats of Phthisis.—A remedy commonly employed for the relief of this symptom is: *Fld. Ext. Ergot* in drachm doses at night. In some cases the patients vomit the remedy, but it is said to work exceedingly well in a large majority of cases.

Hydrate of chloral, given in grs. xx. doses about two hours before the time for the sweating to commence, is another plan.

Another method suggested is to awaken the patient a little before the hour at which the sweating commences, have him wash himself and take a little lunch.

Sprains.—These cases are immediately, as a rule, treated to a plaster of Paris splint, with the precaution taken to pad the limb well with cotton before making the application.

Burns.—Gunpowder burns are occasionally brought in from among the quarrymen, and the application used for this class of injuries is bichloride of mercury, one grain to the ounce of water, with the addition of one drachm of tr. benzoin. This is an old prescription here, and is supposed to be especially serviceable in connection with gunpowder burns.

Oxide of zinc ointment has the practical recommendation of an old member of the fire department.

Mosquito Netting as a Surgical Dressing.—In all those cases where it is desirable to keep up support, and pressure, and at the same time permit the free escape of all discharges from the wound, or ulcer, or whatever it may be, the ordinary mosquito netting used for a bandage meets all the indications. Bundling dressings are avoided in this way, the parts are kept cool, the discharge goes on unrestrained, and at the same time support is maintained. If the discharge is considerable, a pad of oakum may be placed beneath the parts to secure the discharge, thus insuring perfect cleanliness. This netting serves an admirable purpose in dressing large abscesses; for instance, when compression and free discharge are to be associated.

Reduction of High Temperature.—The mean normal temperature of the human body in health is laid down as 98.6° F. Anything above or below this is to be regarded as suspicious.

When the temperature reaches 105° it is occasion for anxiety, and if associated with delirium or unconsciousness some measures must be taken to reduce it to a point somewhat nearer the normal standard without delay. For example, a patient suffering from acute articular rheumatism has a sudden elevation of temperature to 105°, 106°, 107°, and falls into a state of unconsciousness, which is commonly the case with this elevation, must have some measures applied to reduce his temperature a number of degrees, or he will soon succumb. In such cases demanding active treatment, a tub of ice-cold water is placed by the patient's bed, which contains a couple of sheets. One of these sheets is wrung out and the other substituted for it; and this is kept up until the patient commences to complain, which is a very good indication that these measures have been carried sufficiently far. The patient is then wrapped in a dry sheet and placed in bed. This method of treatment is very often employed in this hospital, and there seems to be no other alternative in these severe cases. Unless the temperature is reduced by some means the patients almost invariably die, and this means is regarded as the most practical that can be employed.

In milder cases with less constitutional disturbance, other measures are instituted, such as sponging and the use of cacao butter as already indicated.

"There is no proof that 'cold' brings on diseases," says Wunderlich. "On the other hand, the application of cold on febrile temperatures has proved it one of the chief antipyretic and antiphlogistic remedies, especially in typhus and exanthematic diseases."

"The benefits accruing from cold applications in fever do not depend simply upon the subtraction of an overplus of heat; the question is more complicated, and much is to be learned yet."

Sub-acute Pleurisy.—Patients who present their credentials and are booked, "effusion, into the pleural cavity—large quantity," are tapped at once, and placed upon tonics, quinine, and iron. Diuretics are not used with any great degree of confidence. When the effusion is moderate tonics alone are used.

Bright's Disease.—The general principles of treatment embrace the administration of tonics and diuretics. The best tonics are, quinine and tr. chloride of iron; the best diuretic is, thought to be, the infusion of digitalis.

Erysipelas.—For a local application the liq. plumbi et opii is used, and for internal administration quinine and iron, and the quinine is thought to be especially serviceable. It may have been noticed that the administration of quinine and iron in some of the hospitals is not so steadily adhered to as has been wont to be the case with the profession in general. Of their value in this disease it will be difficult to convince the profession, notwithstanding some of the cases which are treated without the administration of these remedies seem to do equally as well as those which receive it.—*N. Y. Medical Record.*

MEDICAL NEWS.

Small-pox is still epidemic in St. Petersburg.

The city of Hamilton, Ont., is reported healthy, save a number of cases of cholera morbus.

Remittent fever is somewhat prevalent in Kingston. Dr. Octavius Yates has just recovered from a severe attack of it.

The fear of small-pox has considerably abated in Canada, and vaccination is not near so frequently practised as it was a few months ago, so that now it is difficult in some towns to obtain fresh vaccine matter.

Intelligence from Paris states that Dr. Nelaton is still in the same state of health, and that Professor Claude Bernard, concerning whose health several exaggerated reports had circulated in Paris, had been only suffering from a passing indisposition, and is now quite well.

Cholera has apparently ceased among the raftsmen at Dantzic. A few cases have occurred in the Breslau district; and in Saxony, up to July 3, there had been sixty cases with thirty deaths, mostly in the neighbourhood of Dresden. A number of cases have occurred in Altendorf and the neighbourhood; the disease has appeared in Posen and Tilsit, and was, on July 6, spreading in Thorn, where fifty cases had on that day been received into hospital.

The Irish Commissioners of Lunacy take up the subject of the detention of Dipso-maniacs in their last report, and give a very guarded opinion on the matter. "Some few of these cases," they observe, "benefit permanently from control and detention; others, and it is