

particular worm. The itching is sometimes so severe as to make children cry; it prevents sleep, and so gives rise to extreme irritation, which may bring on convulsions. This worm is also met with occasionally in adults, and has, by the intolerable itching to which it gives rise, brought on a veritable condition of hypochondriacism. Another effect, in certain cases, is an inflammation of the rectal mucous membrane, accompanied with tenesmus and muco-sanguinolent stools. In female children the worms may find their way into the vagina, and so bring on a vulvitis, more or less intense, with secondary effects which are most undesirable. Thus, although the presence of these minute worms is not in itself dangerous, yet the secondary consequences may be really grave. Their treatment is as follows: Administer an enema, for five or six consecutive evenings, of lime-water; if this is not sufficient, add—as Dr. West advises—a little perchloride of iron, and the worms will be almost certainly destroyed. Or a mercurial suppository may be tried if the enemata do not succeed. It is very desirable that the enema be properly administered, and in sufficient quantity; it should pass up as far as, or even beyond, the sigmoid flexure, so as to dislodge any worms which may have crept up beyond their usual site. As regards the lumbrici, it may be said that they are harmless (*assez innocents*); it is only when very numerous that their presence becomes dangerous. M. Archambault was once called to see some children who had just arrived from Brazil, and who had been taken ill with convulsions, vomiting, and diarrhoea. Finding in the stools a number of these round worms, he ordered calomel and santonin. An immense number of worms was passed—"it would be no exaggeration to say that the three children in three days passed a hatful of these helminthes." There are so many other anthelmintics than those just mentioned, that the physician's chief difficulty is the *embarras du choix*.—*Medical Times and Gazette*.

URTICARIA.

H. J., 18 years. Here is a young lady who comes to us suffering from "the hives." Here, upon the forearms, you see these large, red blotches, each with a pale or whitish centre, no regularity as to distribution, but lying close together on some parts of the limb, while upon the hand, considerably removed from the others, are more patches. They are quite prominent, and give rise to a most exasperating sensation of burning and itching. Even now you see she cannot refrain from scratching the parts. Both arms and hands, and the face as well as neck, are involved. Doubtless the body and lower limbs share the affection in turn. There is never any difficulty in recognizing the disease, the wheals are so characteristic. In no other disease do we find wheals appearing

suddenly, and, after remaining a varying time, disappearing as rapidly and mysteriously as they came. It is a most common difficulty, and the diagnosis is easily made out. But what causes it is not always so easy to ascertain. A case of urticaria or nettle rash, in which the exciting cause is unknown, is one of the most stubborn and unsatisfactory of all, and the doctor to whose lot it falls is apt to become disgusted with the study of dermatology. The exciting causes of urticaria are divisible into three heads: local irritants, a polluted circulation, and reflex irritation. Without going deeper into the subject, let me say that the first two causes are easily disposed of, and it now remains to be seen how reflex irritation is responsible. The patient yesterday morning indulged in fish for breakfast, and in the course of the afternoon felt a burning and smarting upon various parts of the body. It was not severe, however, till night, when she got warm in bed, at which time it became almost unbearable. Once or twice before fish has had the same effect upon her, but not for several years. She is of a nervous temperament, evidently, and this fact renders it all the more easy for the disease to manifest itself. My assistant tells me that just before coming into the room there was no sign of wheals, yet upon her entrance, I was able to show you some very fine specimens of them. The disease is, I feel convinced, a neurosis, not alone in the case before us, but demonstrably so in every case. The divisions I gave you a few moments ago are made for the sake of convenience only, and if the first two so-called heads be eliminated, I think that reflex action can be clearly shown to be the cause of the cutaneous phenomena in every case.

The treatment in the present case shall consist of three compound cathartic pills. Considerable constipation is present, and as no stool has been had since the eating of the fish, it will have the effect of removing the remnants of it and clearing out the alimentary canal. Locally, a lotion, as follows:

R Ammoniae carbonatis, 3 ss.
Plumbi acetatis, 3 j.
Glycerinae, f 3 j.
Aque rosae, f 3 v.

M. Sig. Use as a wash, several times daily.

Without doubt our patient will obtain relief by these measures.—Clinic of Dr. F. Le Sieure Weir, reported in *Medical and Surgical Reporter*.

ATROPINE IN THE TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY.

Dr. David advises the treatment of epilepsy by the simultaneous employment of atropine and the bromides of potassium and ammonium. For a period of six months, he orders twenty grains of the bromide of ammonium—thrice daily. At the same time the patient is instructed to take a granule of one milligramme of sulphate of atropine