

## ON THE TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER BY INTERNAL DISINFECTION.

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*(The Practitioner, September.)*

Mr. Stephen Skinner contributes a short paper on the treatment of enteric fever by the use of sulphocarbonate of sodium. He administers the drug in twenty-grain doses, ever fourth hour, and gradually increases the quantity during the next few days to thirty grains. He appends twenty cases, in which this mode of treatment was carried out, one case only terminating fatally. He believes that, in cases in which the drug was administered during the period of incubation, the disease either ran more quickly, or it did not become developed. The opinion which he entertains regarding the effect of the remedy is, however, he admits, only conjectural; but he advocates a further trial of the salt to settle its real use or uselessness.

## SWALLOWING A BELL.

It has often been a moot question as to what sized foreign body would be capable of passing through the alimentary canal, and being discharged *per rectum*. In the last *Indian Medical Gazette* an interesting case bearing upon the question is reported by Mr. Higginson. He reports that a child of four years of age put a "ghungree" (a little brass bell such as is commonly attached to ankle ornaments) into her mouth and accidentally swallowed it; the child at once ran to her father and told him what had happened: as she felt as if the thing had stuck halfway, the father made her eat a piece of bread to force it into the stomach. Application was then made to him for a purgative. He directed the parents not to give any medicine whatsoever, to keep the child quiet, and give her a hearty meal of her ordinary food, in order that the foreign body might haply get surrounded by feculent matter, and so pass through safely. Next day the child complained of pain in the belly, and soon after had a motion, in which the "ghungree" was found imbedded.

The bell is three quarters of an inch long, and an inch and a half in circumference round its middle; it tapers towards each end, to one of which is soldered a little ring, the other being cleft to admit of a small stone.

## THUMB-SUCKING.

I have observed that a particular and rather common deformity of the chest is caused by the habit of sucking the thumb in infancy and early childhood. The weight of the arm on the thorax of the child during sleep produces depression of the ribs in the line occupied by the arm when the thumb is placed in the mouth. As this is a very important effect of "thumb-sucking" never hitherto pointed out, I think it desirable to place this note on record for the benefit of other observers.—*Dobell—Brit. Med. Journ., Nov. 8, '73.*

## MEANS OF ARRESTING VOMITING CAUSED BY THE COUGH OF PHTHISIS.

The anæsthetic action of bromide of potassium to the pharynx has been utilized by the surgeons in delicate operations in this region, as staphylorrhaphy. One of our Lyonese confrères, Dr. A. Bonnet, advised this agent to combat the cough in phthisis and more especially the vomiting provoked by cough.

The simple means advised by Dr. Woillez consists in painting the pharynx with a pencil dipped in a concentrated solution of the bromide of potassium. We can approve of this method, and of the happy results obtained by the physician at the Laraboisière.

A morsel of charpie saturated in a solution composed of one-third pure bromide of potassium and two-thirds water is passed rapidly over the pharynx before break-fast in the morning, and at evening; and the patient is directed to refrain from coughing as long as possible.

This application checked vomiting immediately on the first application in four patients. In other cases, its action was less immediate, but still favorable. This remarkable result follows from all cases; in nine patients who vomited habitually after meals, fifty-two applications were made and seven times only did vomiting ensue after treatment was commenced, if the operation had been repeated immediately after taking food.

It is probable that the employment of these pharyngeal applications with the bromide of potassium may render service in other cases, as in the emesis of inanition, pregnancy, etc. In all cases it has the advantage of simplicity, facility of application and freedom from any inconvenience.—*Lyon Medicale, Nov. 23, 1873.*

## QUININE PILL MASS.

M. Berquier, of Provins, in the *Repertoire de Pharmacie*, suggests the following formula for a quinine pill mass:—

℞. Sulphate of quinine,	30 grains.
Powdered gum,	5 "
Glycerine,	10 "

Mix the gum with the glycerine and then incorporate the quinine, beating it well in a mortar.

This is said to give a mass of good pilular consistence, which retains its softness, and can be easily rolled into pills. It can readily be worked up with other ingredients, and is not bulky. Three grains of this mass are equal to two grains of sulphate of quinine.

## REMEDY FOR CHRONIC HOARSENESS.

In chronic hoarseness arising from thickening of the vocal cords and adjacent membrane, the ammoniated tincture of guaiacum is often a very efficacious remedy. It may be approximately mixed with equal parts of the syrup of senega, and a teaspoonful of the mixture given two or three times a day.—*American Practitioner.*