

remedies and plans of treatment have been proposed, it is important to know what is the real value of each or all of these, and from which of them the unfortunate patient is likely to derive most advantage.

If we consider the pathology of the disease, namely an undue excitement of the motor functions of the nervous system or what might not inaptly be called a *muscular mania* it will be evident that the remedies must be such as will tend to control or paralyze this excess of mobility, and consequently most of them which have been proposed have been more or less directly sedative in their action. Opium, which at first sight, seems pre-eminently fitted to control this condition, has been often tried, and has as often failed, insomuch that no faith whatever can be entertained in it, further than as a very temporary palliative; chloroform also, so well known as a paralyzer of muscular power, has again and again failed to effect a cure, and it remains to be seen whether Indian Hemp, so much praised by O'Shaughnessy, is deserving of much more confidence than the others. In the present case its employment was attended with decidedly beneficial effects, for the patient expressed a sense of relief after the first few doses, and this relief continued until the administration of the purgative. I do not say that if persevered in alone it would have effected a cure, but I have little doubt that had the cathartic not been administered, life would have been prolonged for a considerable period, nor can I see, why the improvement so well marked should not have continued, if no new exciting cause supervened to increase the morbid action.

With regard to the employment of purgatives so generally recommended, for the purpose of removing irritating substances from the bowels, I cannot but think their employment injudicious, at least in traumatic cases, for the irritation which they themselves necessarily produce can scarcely fail to aggravate the disease. Should it be thought necessary to evacuate the bowels, enemata of warm water, or of soap, or gruel, would probably have the desired effect without producing any injurious stimulation.

The most successful treatment of tetanus, will probably be found to consist of a careful combination of palliative means, by which the principle dangers are to be warded off, while nature herself is allowed to work the cure in her own way.

Of these palliative means, the most important would seem to be. 1st. The removal of any irritating substance from the wound or its vicinity. 2nd. The complete avoidance of all kinds of excitants both external and internal, as purgatives, sinapisms, blisters, noises &c. 3rd. The inhalation of chloroform during the paroxysms or even of small quantities during the intervals. 4th. The administration of Indian