

can not vary from this without serious results. By numerous experiments upon animals, in the laboratory of Prof. Wood, in the University of Pennsylvania, it has been proven that in a cool apartment death rapidly results after section of the spinal cord, from falling of the bodily temperature, the animal which in a warm room will live indefinitely, dying very shortly in a temperature of 50° Fahr. The cause of the inability of the animal to resist external cold after section of the cord is undoubtedly vaso-motor paralysis. Normally, the temperature of the interior of the body is maintained by keeping an outer layer of partially-cooled tissue between the internal organs and tissues and the outer air. When, however, the power of contracting the superficial vessels has been lost, the organism can no longer maintain this protecting layer, the surface temperature rises, heat is rapidly lost, and soon the whole body becomes uniformly cooled.

Vaso-motor paralysis is produced by toxic doses of various remedies, and under these circumstances artificial maintenance of the bodily temperature is imperative, forming a most important portion of the treatment of all such poisoning. Collapse from any cause is largely dependent upon, or, more correctly speaking, largely is, vaso-motor palsy: hence in almost all forms of collapse the use of external heat is of great importance.

Dr. Charles Hunter, of this city, has very successfully applied this treatment to that form of collapse which follows injuries and surgical operation, and is known by surgeons as *shock*. The lack of power of alcoholic and other ordinary stimulants in this condition is proverbial. The pathological state is undoubtedly vaso-motor palsy, the bodily temperature is much below normal, and the rational treatment consists in the hypodermic use of atropia and digitalis and the external employment of the hot bath. The plan of treatment will probably be found to be a very important addition to surgical therapeutics. In the first day of the post-fetal life the power of resisting external cold is very slight, and in many cases of still-born children, or of children whose vital powers are almost extinguished at birth, life may be saved by a high external temperature, the little waif being kept in an air of 90° to 100° Fahr., and from the influence of cold walls which shall draw off, as it were, the little store of heat provided by nature; for there is no doubt that radiation is greatly affected by the temperature of surrounding objects.

In regard to the methods of applying heat, it must, in the first place, be understood that wrapping in blankets, etc., are only useful as a means of preventing cooling of the body; that when the animal temperature has already fallen they will not suffice at all. The same may be said of air heated to temperatures which can be

readily obtained or can be borne by the attendants. Radiated heat is somewhat better, and often the use of a brisk open fire is of service. The *hot bath* is, however, the only pyretic remedy which can be relied on, when a Turkish bath is not at hand. It should always be a full bath, in as warm a room as can be produced, and should be at a temperature of about 103° Fahr., when the patient is put into it. The duration of the bath must vary with the circumstances of the case. Frequently, ten minutes will be long enough, but if the mouth-temperature does not rise to normal, a much longer tarriance may be advised. During the bath the heat of the water should steadily be increased as fast as it can be borne, if the patient be conscious. It will be found that 110° is about the limit of endurance for most persons, and in unconscious subjects this limit should not be passed.—*Philadelphia Medical Times*.

BROMINE IN LARYNGEAL CROUP.

Dr. W. Redenbacher (*British Medical Journal*, 1879, p. 234; from *Aerztliches Intelligenz-Blatt*), called to the case of two little girls, aged respectively 5 and 7, suffering with severe croup of the larynx and air-tubes, ordered a table-spoonful of the following mixture to be taken every hour:

R. Decocti althææ, fʒ iv;
Potassii bromidi, ʒ i;
Bromi, gr. ivss;
Syrupi simplicis, fʒ i.

On again visiting the patients, whom he did not expect to find alive, he was most agreeably surprised. The difficult breathing, dry hard cough, etc., had all disappeared; the breathing was free, and the cough loose; several portions of croupal membrane had been coughed up. Recovery followed, without toxic symptoms. For children under one year, the quantity of bromine in the mixture should be reduced to one grain and a half, and for those from one to four years old, to three grains.

VENEREAL WARTS.

A writer in the *British Medical Journal* has successfully removed these growths by powdering over the surface twice daily with equal parts of burnt alum and tannin. As these growths occur chiefly in situations where mucous or skin surfaces are in contact and moist, this plan suggested itself. In the first case in which he applied it, the warts were easily rubbed off in the course of three or four days, and other cases have given equally good results.