

slowly in the mouth, or of swallowing it, that it might be dissolved in the stomach. I have no doubt of its efficacy in many cases when thus used. There are many instances, however, and particularly in infants, when it is difficult to secure any such favorable results, because of the want of co-operation on the part of the patients.

A more practicable mode, and one with which I have been very favorably impressed, after some four or five years trial, is that of its external application to the throat, in nearly all of the local inflammations of that region, not connected with the eruptive fevers.

I have used it in both inflammatory and spasmodic croup, in diphtheria, tonsillitis, laryngitis, and oedema of the glottis, and I assure you of my belief that we possess no remedy so effective, and at the same time so manageable, as the external application of ice to the larynx, or parts higher up, when thus inflamed. Its powerful sedative impression is observed in a very short time, directly upon the morbid process; while there is a general sedation, seen in the diminished action of the heart, and loss of temperature, with a corresponding modification of febrile excitement, upon the continuance of the application of the remedy.

In infants, I have seen it control the croupy respiration in a very few minutes, and that too when time is of the utmost importance, as in the severe forms of the spasmodic variety. In diphtheria, it does not always arrest the exudation of false membrane, but the ice will diminish the amount thrown out, and assuage the local pain and swelling very much. In the earlier stage of tonsillitis it will often arrest the disease, always modifies and lessens the inflammatory action, and prevents, to a very considerable extent, the suppurative process. In some cases, however, when repeated suppurative inflammations have occurred in the tonsils before, it has not always arrested the formation of an abscess—perhaps it might have done so had it been applied in an earlier stage of the disease.

My mode of application has been to secure a piece of ice, the size of a hen's egg, so shapen as to adapt itself to the form of the neck, upon each side of the larynx, or as near the seat of inflammation as practicable; and for tonsillitis, immediately to the sub-maxillary region, upon one or both sides, as the case might require. I have generally adjusted the ice by enveloping it in a single thickness of oiled silk so that it could not slip from its proper place, then placing it saddlewise over the larynx, I next envelope the whole neck with several thicknesses of flannel, with the view of preventing the temperature of the surrounding air from contributing to any extent in dissolving it. When the ice seems to be no longer required, the moderate application of cold water will prevent too great reaction, and the lighting up anew of the morbid action.

It does not, or at least I have not relied upon it solely with that view, do away the necessity of other treatment; but I have generally employed such medication as the circumstances seemed to demand for the arrest of the disease, with only this precaution; that antimony and viratrum be administered sparingly, lest too great depression be obtained.

It will be recollected that the ice lies closely upon the larger vessels of the neck, and that the greater part of all the blood sent to, and returning from the brain, comes more or less under its influence; and that the sedative effect of the small

quantities thus employed is much more marked than when a considerable larger quantity is applied to the whole cerebrum.

I have not time to prepare notes of cases, if I were so disposed, because of the pressure of my public duties; nor do I consider it particularly necessary, to ensure the trial of the remedy by the profession at large. The known relative action of cold is too well appreciated by the profession to require such demonstration.

I have not employed it in those anginous affections of the throat connected with scarlatina, lest it might interfere with the appearance of the eruption; though in a desperate case, when other remedies had failed, I should do so, and seek to counteract any unpleasant effect by friction to the surface, and artificial heat to the remote parts. I have seen no unpleasant effects from its use, though I can readily conceive that on young infants, without proper care, its action might be carried too far.

To Professor N. P. Davis, Chicago Medical College.

SIMPLE DRESSING, FOR RECENT BURNS

BY JOHN H. PACKARD, M.D., PHILADELPHIA.

In the Spring of 1853, while an officer of the Philadelphia City Dispensary, in Fifth street, I was called one day to attend a German manufacturer of fancy soaps, in the neighborhood, who had been severely burnt over the face, one arm, and the side, by the blazing up of a quantity of alcohol. I visited him for several days, using from the outset the "Carron Oil," or mixture of linseed oil and lime water, as I had been taught. But this failed to allay his pain, even with the aid of anodynes given internally; and becoming dissatisfied, he dismissed me, and procured the services of an old friend of his, formerly a surgeon in the Austrian army. On my seeing him a short time afterwards, he told me that his friend had given him immediate relief by the application of fresh lard; and the appearance of the injured parts was indeed surprisingly favorable.

Bearing this case in mind, I made a trial of the plan suggested, as soon as an opportunity offered itself, and was so well satisfied with the result that I continued its use. Since that time there have come under my care a great many cases of burns and scalds of all degrees of extent and severity; but none in which the simple dressing, above mentioned, has not answered well. It has repeatedly, I do not know how often, occurred to me to see patients who have had other dressings applied, but whose sufferings continued unrelieved until the lard was put on.

Some of these instances have impressed me very forcibly. One was that of a child about three years of age, to whom I was accidentally called. He had pulled a kettle of boiling water off a table upon himself, and was badly scalded over the face, upper part of the chest, and arms. His mother had applied linseed oil and lime water, but to no good purpose; he was screaming and crying violently with pain. Some fresh lard having been brought, I dressed his injuries with it, when he immediately ceased crying, and in a few minutes fell into a sound sleep. His recovery was very rapid.

Another case occurred to me a week or two since. A child four years old was reaching for some play-thing on a mantel-piece, over a grate, when his clothes (he was in petticoats) swung out against the fire, and he was instantly in flames.