

which it returned to its normal condition. After the fifth day of the treatment the patient felt stronger, and she complained of a sensation of tingling, and of continuous pricking in the legs and arms, especially at the seat of fracture. The phosphate of lime was continued in the same large doses, and caused no disturbances of the general health. The formication gradually decreased in severity after the first week. The limb was placed in a silica splint, and when this was removed, on July 8th, the consolidation was almost complete.

2. Charles D— received a compound fracture of both bones of the right leg on May 1st. On June 1st the wound had healed, but the callus was still soft. On June 3d he was ordered two spoonfuls of the syrup of the lacto-phosphate of lime three times a day. After twenty-four hours his appetite began to increase, and it became excessive about the eighth day. At the same time he complained of a marked sensation in the affected leg, which he compared to that produced by electricity and by numerous prickings. On June 20th the callus was resistant, although mobility still existed.

3. X—, fracture of humerus on June 12th. Consolidation well advanced on July 9th. On the 17th a spoonful of the syrup was ordered three times a day; these doses were doubled on the 19th. On the 22nd the appetite was excessive, and the patient felt in the fractured limb some formication, which gradually became more marked. The drug was withheld for four days, and on the fourth day all the phenomena had disappeared. It was then resumed in the same doses, and after three days the patient complained anew of formication.—*La Tribune Médicale*, December 3, 1876.

THE TREATMENT OF ERYSIPELAS BY THE MURIATED TINCTURE OF IRON.

By Dr. CHARLES BELL, Edinburgh.

The primary views I have hitherto advocated as to the nature and sources of erysipelas may be briefly stated thus:—In whatever form erysipelas may appear, it is the effect of blood poisoning from improper diet, and exposure to impure air; and, although in some instances it is apparently the consequence of infection, it may in reality be produced by those affected being exposed to the same vitiated source, and also by there being a peculiar idiosyncrasy in certain families which induces several members to be affected at the same time, yet not residing constantly in the same locality. There is also reason to suspect that, after exposure to the exciting cause, the disease may lie dormant in the system until stimulated into action by some irritation or excitement, or even by some depressing circumstance. In several of these respects it resembles diphtheria and scarlatina as well as puerperal fever; but more especially

in the fact that all these diseases yield to the same mode of treatment.

It may not be uninteresting to refer to some circumstances which seem to illustrate and confirm these views. That erysipelas is the result of exposure to a vitiated atmosphere is, I think, rendered obvious by the following cases reported by the late Dr. Begbie, senior, who relates that a locality in the New Town of Edinburgh became vitiated by the effluvia arising from putrid animal and vegetable matter in the shops on the ground floor and sunk flat, and that in one of the houses above, entering from a cross-street, all the inmates became sickly, and the man-servant was seized with a severe form of erysipelas. He was treated according to the practice then in vogue, and his "convalescence was slow and unsatisfactory, so that four or five weeks elapsed before the patient was able to resume his duties."

The family removed to another house, where the air was pure, and they soon all recovered their health, with the exception of the nurse, who became affected in a few days after the removal with erysipelas of a most inveterate character, thus showing that the disease must have been dormant in the system.

The wife of one of the shopmen in the vitiated locality referred to, "who was in the daily habit of attending her husband's place of business, and assisting him in conducting it, was, during the progress of the first of these cases of erysipelas, carried home in the pains of childbirth, and died on the fourth day after delivery, with obscure indications of puerperal peritonitis, and rapid sinking." In this case we have an example of the same vitiated atmosphere, giving rise to two apparently different diseases, erysipelas and puerperal fever.

The following cases give a striking example of the idiosyncrasy which exists in some families to have several members affected at the same time. The village of the Water of Leith, celebrated for its unhealthiness from its visits of cholera, fever, and other epidemics, and where the Board of Education have chosen to erect one of their largest educational establishments, was visited by erysipelas. Two sisters, living under the same roof, apparently caught the disease from different sources, having resided apart from each other for some time, the one occupying their present dwelling, the other residing with a gentleman in a distant part of the town. At the opposite side of the same lane a man became affected, although he had no communication with the sisters; and, in succession, other three cases occurred in the same household. Thus showing that different people exposed to the same polluted atmosphere, although not having intercourse with each other, are liable to become affected with the same disease.

Dr. Begbie relates another case which still further illustrates the view under consideration: