

to recur is a reason for going on with the salicyl treatment till all danger of an intermission is over. Hyperpyrexia is regarded as being no essential part of the rheumatic process, but as peculiar to the individual in whom it occurs. Salicyl compounds are quite inoperative in it. The external application of cold is the remedy for this condition.

TREATMENT OF OBSTINATE HICCOUGH.

A writer in the *New York Medical Record* reports success by the administration of 25 grains of common salt. As we all know there are very many remedies used in this distressing condition.

Hippocrates' aphorism, "Sneezing coming upon hiccough cures it," ought to give us a hint as to treatment. Since I noticed this old statement I have not had an opportunity of testing its truth. Perhaps some reader of this journal may make a note of it and report his results.

CODEIA IN DIABETES.

A paper on this subject was read before the British Medical Association by Dr. R. Shingleton Smith (*British Medical Journal*, Sept., 1881, p. 474). It is stated to be almost a specific, and should be the first remedy tried, being given in fairly large doses until some physiological effect is produced. Some of those present stated they had given as much as 10 to 15 grains, thrice a day, with benefit, and others that even 1 grain a day had caused unpleasant symptoms. It was suggested that it acted on the medulla, whence the original mischief that produces diabetes was supposed to spring. This speculation is favoured by the fact that codeia is valuable in cough.

Dr. Lauder Brunton advises that the drug be given in doses of a quarter to half a grain three times a day.

HYPODERMIC INJECTION OF WATER.

This question, so much discussed a few years ago, is again brought before the notice of the profession by a Venezuelan physician, Dr. Ponte (*London Medical Record*, Nov. 15th, 1881). His cases were intercostal neuralgia, toothache, gastro intestinal neuralgia, &c. No doubt the good effect noted in these cases is

due to the effect of the puncture, or perhaps to local nerve-stretching by the water. In cases where there is really severe pain this plan I have myself found worthless. I tried it in a case of abdominal aneurism encroaching on the lumbar vertebrae. The fraud was instantly detected. On the other hand, it answered admirably in the case of an hysterical old man who was suffering from cramps in the belly after an apoplectic seizure. A few drops of water injected into the arm gave great relief, but here a great deal of the pain and irritability was due to bad temper. I should like to hear more of the method of acupuncture. It seems a most convenient mode of treating lumbago and allied affections.

ERGOTINE IN THE NIGHT-SWEATS OF PHTHISIS.

Professor J. M. Da Costa, in a clinical lecture delivered at the Pennsylvania Hospital, pronounces ergotine the remedy best calculated to relieve this troublesome complication. Dr. Da Costa finds ergotine possesses some of the certainty and permanence of action of atropia, without its drawbacks. The dose is usually two grains, three or four times a day, and by the second night its influence begins to be manifested. The remedy may then be continued, and gradually abandoned; it produces no annoyance whatever, and its good effects continue after it has been withdrawn (*London Medical Record*, Nov., 1881).

NECROSIS OF CRANIAL BONES.

(Clinical Lecture at Toronto General Hospital, Session 1881-82.)

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GENTLEMEN,—The case before you is one of necrosis of the bones of the cranium. Evidently the parietals are very extensively destroyed. So far have these bones succumbed to the process of decay that a large part of the vertex, as you see, is gone, the membranes exposed, and the pulsations of the brain plainly seen. It is seldom that we see such an extensive destruction of the bony covering of the brain. Can we find the cause?