

thirty years of age, noticed a pimple which itched violently on the back of her little finger. On the same day she had an accident, being thrown from a cart, cutting her eyebrow and scratching her face severely. On the third day her finger became very painful, the pain extending up her arm and striking across her chest to her heart, and the glands in the axilla were swollen. The sore presented the appearance of a blackish vesicle, with a small black slough in the centre. The vesicle was cut off and ipecacuanha mixed with glycerine applied, three grains being given internally every four hours. This was at 9 o'clock in the morning, and in half an hour the pain subsided and remained absent until 2 o'clock the following morning, when it began to return in the finger but not elsewhere. At 9 o'clock the vesicle had again returned. The treatment was then repeated with the same result—relief of the pain and its return on the following day. A small blister was then applied, and afterwards the ipecacuanha. This effectually arrested the disease, which did not return, and the sore was healed up in the ordinary way. This is the only case in which there has been a partial failure due, as I have since learned, to the use of glycerine instead of water, owing probably to the strong exosmotic action of the former substance.

I have not thought it necessary to describe the other cases, as they present nothing which is not included in those already mentioned, differing from each other only in their position and severity, and pursuing the same course under treatment. These cases speak for themselves, and I do not think there is any other method of treatment which will produce such results, though there are some native drugs which have a somewhat similar effect, but in an inferior degree.

Though charbon is almost entirely confined to persons who have to do with cattle, it is not always easy to trace the direct source of infection. It may be caused by flies, or by the skins and wool of cattle not themselves diseased, or, perhaps, by the germs existing on the herb-
age. It has been too generally concluded

that the *Bacillus anthracis* is a parasite whose natural habitat is the animal tissues, and is only accidentally present on vegetation, instead of, as I believe, the exact reverse—that it is naturally present on the vegetation and only accidentally present in the animal body, which is probably also the case with such diseases as diphtheria and typhoid fever. Nowhere is splenic fever so prevalent or so fatal as in a newly settled country where no cattle have grazed before—a fact which many colonial farmers have learned to their cost. By successive or continuous occupation such pasturage becomes healthy.

CARBUNCLE.

Carbuncle resembles charbon in many respects, and it occurred to me that the same treatment might be useful. Being a comparatively rare disease in this part of the world, I had to wait some years before getting a chance of testing it, but at last three cases came in succession, followed by a fourth after a long interval. Four cases may seem a small number to justify my designation of specific, but the results correspond so exactly with those obtained with charbon, that I think I may be justified in using it.

CASE 1.—E. B. C.—, a farmer, a strong healthy man, about thirty-five years old, was brought into town with a large carbuncle on his back. He felt so ill that he fancied he was suffering from the more serious disease.—April 3rd, 1882: The carbuncle was about five inches in diameter, and was still increasing rapidly; it was situated over the lower angle of the scapula, was extremely painful, and had existed for four days. Ipecacuanha was applied to the place, and five grains given internally every four hours.—4th: Feels no longer ill; the carbuncle has shrunk to about two inches, and has lost the peculiar appearance of that disease; fluctuation distinct in the middle.—5th: An abscess about the size of a florin is all that remains of the disease; this was opened, and a small quantity of pus and some sloughs escaped. He drove himself home (twenty miles) the same afternoon.

CASE 2.—On May 5th, a rivetter, em-