

Medicine.

TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DYSENTERY, WITH LARGE DOSES OF POWDERED IPECAC.

Subjoined are brief histories of three cases of chronic dysentery, treated on the Pacific coast, by W. E. Whitehead, M. D., assistant surgeon U. S. army.

CASE 1.—N. M., white, single, aged thirty-six years, sailor. Came under my observation and treatment in April, 1868; much reduced in flesh and strength; loss of appetite; frequent mucous and bloody stools, often as many as twenty-five a day. Three years previously, while in Australia in the mines, had a very severe attack of dysentery, with fever; was then sick for nearly three months; when sufficiently strong, he left the mines and went to sea, but did not fully recover his flesh and strength, and for three years had daily from five to twenty-five small, watery, bloody, and mucous discharges from the bowels. Upon examination, I found he had soreness in the left iliac region; no piles or ulceration about the anus; appetite capricious; tongue coated and slimy; skin dry; urine scanty and highly colored.

Treatment.—To take a warm, salt-water bath twice a week; to eat soups and farinaceous food, with milk and weak green tea; no spirit or fermented liquor; to wear flannel at all times; to sleep in a warm, dry, and well ventilated place. To take R. pulv. ipecac, grs. xv, three times a day.

At the end of one week his condition was much improved; his stomach now tolerated the large doses of ipecac; the discharges from the bowels were less frequent and more solid; appetite, spirits, and general condition much improved. He said that he felt more like doing his duty (general hand on board a small Government schooner) than he had done for several years. Continue the powdered ipecac in twelve grain doses three times a day; no change made in the general treatment. At the end of ten days more he was so much improved that he did not think it necessary to take any more of the powders; but I concluded to continue them in doses of ten grains twice a day; to take one as soon as he arose in the morning, and one just before retiring to bed at night. This was continued for two weeks, with advice to begin the use of solid food. At the end of this time, or about the fifth week of treatment, N. M. was much improved in strength and flesh, good appetite, digestion good, from two or three healthy alvine dis-