

All should be taken at once, whatever the number. As soon as the bowel can be got to act without its assistance, the medicine should be suspended. If the belladonna does not act at evening a teaspoonful of castor-oil should be taken, and the intestine prepared by the belladonna yields to the purgative influence of the oil, and it is repeated once or twice a week, according to the requirements of the case. When belladonna was first introduced it was used empirically; its mode of action was not known, but observation and experience have fully demonstrated its use. One observer remarks that all poisons and all foreign substances to the economy are inassimilable, and as soon as introduced tend to be eliminated; so it is with atropine. But as elimination is made especially by the kidneys and the mucous membrane of the bowel, it is upon these organs first that its effects are seen. It induces in them a redness and dryness, and an irritation leading to tenesmus and frequent desire to urinate. That atropine is eliminated by the urine is easily demonstrated, so also by the intestine. Diarrhoea so frequent as an effect, is a good proof of it. Besides, atropine has been found in the feces. Thus the process is one of irritation and active congestion of the intestinal mucous membrane by the effort to eliminate the poison, and therefore it should be especially prescribed in deficient secretion. When these means fail and that is frequent; when constipation is at the same time due to intestinal sluggishness and disorder of secretion, purgatives, must be had recourse to, but they ought to be handled with certain precautions and much prudence.

Trousseau thinks that in general the saline purgatives should be excluded. They act rapidly, almost instantaneously, and of very short duration, and like certain salts upon the buccal membrane, after having excited an abundant secretion of saliva, leave a dryness of the mouth and a thirst in proportion to the intensity of the first effect produced. Podophyllin is very active. If a pill of 1 gr. each of it and ext. belladonna be made and the patient take one, two, or three of them morning or night fasting, a good evacuation will result easily and without colic or heat of the stomach.

To the above may be added the drastic purgatives aloes, colocynth, jalap, &c. In order to prevent colic, &c., a little hyoscyamus, oil of anise, or something of like nature should be added. These

medicines should be used with circumspection, for if it is true that where all other remedies have failed they succeeded, it is not less true that it will be very imprudent to wish always to use them to overcome constipation. They not only end by irritating the digestive passages and producing very grave enteritis, but they also give rise to intestinal atony. Their action is exhausted and constipation which had been overcome is no longer so, and it becomes more and more obstinate. Very often constipation recognises no other causes.

EPITHELIAL CANCER OF THE INTERNAL EAR.

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The following case presents many points of interest among which are, the rarity of the disease, and the value of the microscope as an auxiliary to the means of diagnosis:—

On the 12th of December of last year I was summoned by a professional brother to visit with him a patient who he said was suffering from "Inflammation of the labyrinth?" I accompanied him at once to the place and found the patient sitting on a chair with his head resting on a pillow on the table. On examining the ear, I observed first the whole external ear much swollen and of a purplish colour, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch inside the meatus was to be seen the jagged, indurated edge of a foul looking ulcer, and just beyond this, a small teat like process showed itself very red in color. There was a profuse discharge resembling beef tea with a most offensive smell. The pain was not severe; appetite fair, and bowels regular. The tongue was of a florid red, and fissured in different directions. The history which was obtainable was exceedingly vague; all that I could ascertain was that the patient was for many years in the habit of picking his ears with lucifer matches, and some three or four years ago was treated for common ear-ache by a medical man. His ear had been discharging for some months and about five or six weeks previous to my first visit all the small bones of the ear, such as the stapes, malleus, &c., &c., came away in the discharge which was first healthy looking pus, and then changed to that before described. There was also a constant hawking.