

any clue to the composition of the secret remedy, as apparently the proprietor varied the constituents from time to time, in order to puzzle the analysts and escape detection. Some patients said that it was a clear colorless fluid like water, whilst others were confident that it was yellow, or red, or even blue. Some thought it was tasteless, whilst others declared they recognized the not unfamiliar flavor of dry sherry. They all agreed, however, that it was used in the form of a spray, and that its effects were little short of marvellous, a few inhalations affording prompt relief, both to the cough and shortness of breath. It always loosened the phlegm, and frequently gave rise to copious watery expectoration. It obviously belonged to the class of medicinal agents which we call expectorants, and as there was no reason to suppose that it was a rare or unknown drug, the sphere of investigation was considerably narrowed, for many remedies were obviously unsuited for administration by this particular method. A number of preliminary trials were made which speedily demonstrated that even if the specific were not ipecacuanha wine, that very useful drug entered largely into its composition, and that locally applied in the form of a spray it was capable of affording relief to congested and irritated bronchial mucous membranes. Sometimes the ipecacuanha wine, pure or diluted with an equal quantity of water, was used with a small steam vaporiser, but more commonly the ordinary hand-ball spray apparatus, such as is employed for the production of local anæsthesia, was preferred. A solution in spirit made of the same strength as the wine was found equally efficacious. After a few visits the patient was usually taught how to use the apparatus himself.

The following may be regarded as typical of a number of cases which have been under treatment at the Westminster Hospital during the last six months:—

I. Case (reported by Mr. E. Lucas Hughes, clinical assistant) showing the value of the ipecacuanha spray in bronchial catarrh:—

David J., æt. 53, a cigar maker by trade, has had a cough in the the winter for twelve years or more. There is not much dust in his work, and he is not exposed to wet or cold, but he has travelled a good deal, and has known what it is to rough it. He has been to America fourteen times, to Australia, Sandwich Islands, and many other places. He is fond of going about, and as he is a good hand at his work, and can always get employment, he sees no reason why he should always stay in one place. The cough is troublesome, but is not paroxysmal. There are no bad attacks of cough, but there is a good deal of hacking, and this keeps him awake at night. There is very little expectoration, certainly not enough to give him any trouble. He has had no hæmoptysis, and has not lost flesh. On examining the chest the per-

cussion note is found to be normal. Small râles are detected at the left apex in front, and at the right base posteriorly. The patient was given 15 cc. of ipecacuanha wine, with an equal quantity of water, by a steam spray apparatus, and this was repeated on three successive days, the dose being gradually increased to 30 cc. On the fourth day the hand-ball spray was used, and at the expiration of the week the patient reported that his cough had entirely left him, and that he was practically well. On examining the chest it was found that the rhonchus had disappeared.

II. Case of chronic bronchitis and winter cough (reported by Mr. L. Hughes), illustrating strikingly the benefit which may frequently be obtained by the ipecacuanha spray:—

Francis P., æt. 58, has suffered from winter cough for the last twenty-five years. He gets rid of it for only a short time in the summer, and for the last thirteen years it has been not a winter cough, but a winter and summer cough as well. This year he has had it badly since the beginning of December. It comes on in fits, which often last ten minutes. He always has two or three bad bouts of it in the daytime, and one or two at night. If they come on when he is out he has to cling to the railings, or hang on to anything that may be handy. The expectoration is always thick, and it may be yellow or white, sometimes streaked with black, especially in the winter. He has never brought up any blood, with the exception of a mouthful now and then. He gets short of breath, especially on exertion, or after a bad fit of cough. His occupation is an unfavourable one, for he is engaged in heaving sacks of coal at the gas works. He gets as hot as any man can get, he says, and then goes out or stands in a draught to "cool down a bit." This he thinks has tried his constitution. On examining the chest it was found that there was a little general emphysema, with sibilant rhonchus over the right front and back. Immediately after the patient had been examined he was made to inhale a spray of equal parts of ipecacuanha wine and water. The Richardson's apparatus was employed, and the quantity of the diluted wine used was 5 cc. The chest was then at once re-examined, and it was found that the sibilant rhonchus had entirely disappeared from the front, and had almost gone from the back. After inhaling 10 cc. more of the diluted wine the patient expectorated freely. At the expiration of five minutes, during which 35 cc. had been sprayed, the abnormal signs had entirely disappeared from the chest. The patient came the next day, and had another inhalation of 40 cc. This was repeated on six consecutive days, when the patient reported that he was quite well. The cough had left him, there was no expectoration, the breathing was easier, and his appetite had returned. On examining the chest no rhonchus was to be found.