

ditions that indicate a gouty diathesis; these are biliousness, headache, arterio-sclerosis, indigestion, etc. A man who is a high liver and presents such symptoms as these, especially on the morning after an acute debauch, is on the direct highway to gout. Every man with hard arteries, or these other symptoms, has not gout, but, I repeat, is on the gouty line. Such a man, can, by a timely correction of his habits, avoid an attack of gout; but a man in whom an attack has once developed, even though it be a slight one, has a gouty prospect that will require his utmost solicitude to counteract.

Gout once developed is extremely prone to recur. Upon examination we find that this patient has extremely hard arteries, a pulse of high tension and an hypertrophied left ventricle, but no murmur. These hard, whipcord arteries are due to a general condition of fibrosis; we should find such a condition if we examined his heart, liver and kidneys.

You noticed that in getting the patient's history, I dwelt considerably on his appetite. He said that he was a hearty eater and lived on rich food. This alone, without the use of wine, was cause enough to produce gout. Excessive eating of rich food is a frequent cause of gout in females who lead a luxurious life. They eat often and take large quantities of food, but are absolutely averse to exercise. Walking, with them, is one of the lost arts. Horseback-riding is good, but if you induce them to practice it you perform a miracle. They get gout which brings on a chain of other disorders, particularly at the menopause. It requires patience and tact to treat such cases.

This second patient is a man with diseased joints somewhat similar to that of the gouty patient. You will notice, however, that while the patient with gout complains most of pain in his fingers and toes, that this patient complains of most pain in his elbows. There is also an absence of the deformity in the phalanges here, which we see so plainly marked in the first patient. This man has chronic arthritis in his joints. He says that some years ago he noticed a tenderness, redness, and swelling of the right elbow, then of the left, and next of the ankles. This is a prominent feature of rheumatoid arthritis; it attacks a joint and damages it to such an extent that it often leaves it permanently crippled; this done it attacks another joint with the same result. It appears first in the large joints, while gout appears first in the small joints. This is an important diagnostic point, as we can often tell which disease it is by knowing the joint first affected. Chronic arthritis attacks small joints as well as the large, and may leave them in a more crippled state than will gout. While gout is a disease due to an excess of uric acid in the blood, arthritis is supposed to be an affection of the nervous system. Arthritis is

not a rheumatic trouble, and anti-rheumatic drugs like salicylate of soda and iodide of potash have no effect on the disease. There is no drug that will cure it, but I have found that while it is progressing it may be delayed by the judicious use of cod liver oil and arsenic.

Now gout, unlike arthritis, will yield to medicinal remedies. Colchicum is almost a specific in gout. It may be given with or without alkalies; of its various preparations I have found the acetic extract to be the most efficient. I think that it is much better than the tincture or the wine of colchicum seed. If the acute pain of gout does not yield to it, combine a little morphia. After the patient has been relieved of his acute attack we should forcibly impress upon him the necessity of a reformation in his habits; unless he does this he is sure to have another attack in a few months. Gout demands scientific and practical treatment. It is a disease that makes a man prematurely old. The general fibrosis which it gives rise to will, in a short time, make an old man out of a young man.—Dr. A. L. Loomis, in *Med. Fortnightly*.

#### MEDICAL NOTES.

Prof. Senn recently stated that catgut is the only suture necessary to approximate and maintain any *Fracture of the Patella* until the occurrence of union.

As a *Substitute for Tincture of Iodine* the following is recommended (*Pharm. Era*): Dissolve 1 part of iodine in ether, add 20 parts of oil paraffine, and then allow the ether to evaporate.

Federow Charkon obtained a rapid and complete cure of the *Vomiting of Pregnancy* by the use of fluid extract of *hydrastis canadensis*, twenty drops four times a day (*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*.) He believes that this drug reduces the blood pressure, diminishes the hyperæmia of the uterus, and calms the irritated vaso-motor centres of the digestive apparatus.

Dr. W. L. Symes (*Dublin Jour. of Med. Science in Med. Record*, Oct. 1, 1892), reports a case of *Heart Failure* in which there was no pulse, no sound over his heart, no respiration; his eyes were glassy and fixed; he could not swallow; and severe slapping of the epigastrium had no effect. Having exhausted all available stimulants, and recollecting that he had read somewhere of the value of a hot spoon applied to the epigastrium in states of asphyxia or syncope, Dr. Symes took a hot lump of coal from the fire with the tongs, and applying it over the xiphoid cartilage once or twice, was gratified to find it produce powerful contractions of the inspiratory muscles. This was continued for some time, applications being