

NITRATE OF POTASH IN ACUTE PNEUMONIA.

Dr. Macnaghten Jones collects and publishes some notes of cases of pneumonia that have fallen under his care, in which nitrate of potash was beneficially employed. Everyone, he says, is familiar with the different plans of treatment and the particular remedies, and such as tartar emetic, digitalis, quinine, venetia, alkalies, and chloroform, which have each had their special advocates; as also the various methods employed for combating the inflammatory process locally, as depletion, counter irritation, cold, cataplasms, &c. Digitalis and quinine he regards as the two most powerful antipyretics we possess when given in sufficient quantities; the latter he has frequently given in doses of ten and fifteen grains every third hour without producing any unpleasant symptoms. Digitalis he considers to be particularly useful in the latter stages of the affection. Tartar emetic holds, however, the foremost place, he thinks, an antipyretic in the treatment of pneumonia, though its administration sometimes requires to be stopped on account of its lowering and debilitating effects. Of late he has altogether relinquished its use, and has treated nearly every case of acute pneumonia which has come under his observation in the earlier stages of the disease with nitrate of potash in ten and fifteen grain doses, repeated every third hour, till it has produced its peculiar effect on the temperature and the pulse. In some cases, in consequence of complications, he has had to give up the nitrate and has resorted to digitalis. In regard to general measures he leans to a free and generous support, and rather to the side of the stimulant system than the reverse. He thinks counter-irritants and vesicants, followed by the application of large linseed-meal poultices, extremely valuable auxiliary measures. Dr. Jones then records several cases in which the above plan of treatment was successfully adopted. He thinks the mode in which it cures the inflammation or arrests its progress is partly by promoting the absorption of its products through its action on the fibrin, by a direct action on the blood through an effect upon its corpuscles, and also by reducing the force of the fever and lowering the force and frequency of the heart's pulsations.—*Dublin Medical Journal*, July 1873.

TREATMENT OF FISSURES OF THE NIPPLE.

In a paper by Dr. Crépey, fissures of the nipple are described as being of two kinds. First, those produced by the violent suction on the part of the child; here the epidermis is raised and abraded, as if by a cupping-glass. In this condition of the nipple, the child should be allowed to suckle only when the breast is charged with milk. Second, at other times, a little of the milk lodges in the minute cracks at the base of the nipple, where it comes in contact with the secretions of the body and rapidly decomposes, thus acting as an active irritant of the skin, and in some instances inducing very extensive inflammation. As a preventive of cracked nipples, originating in this manner, the breast should be bathed with warm water, wiped dry, and then anointed with the following ointment:—R Tannin, 1 gramme; Glycerine, 10 grammes.

This should be applied by means of a camel's hair brush, after which the nipple should be protected with charpie, or a soft linen cloth. In the most cases, the nipple-shield may be employed to advantage.

If the breast be distended with milk, relief may be afforded by the application of a large, thin-seed poultice, taking the precaution to protect the nipple with a soft piece of leather.—*Gaz. des Hôp.*, 1872.

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