

the other, in respect of the quinine dissolved in the filtrate and lost in other ways. It is true that these two opposite sources of error will sometimes balance each other. But we may well be impatient of a process giving results that are only approximately accurate, when in that by chloroform we have one which is as absolutely trustworthy as it is simple in application and rapid in execution.

THE TREATMENT OF BURNS.*

It is always useful to have at one's fingers ends the best treatment for such common and painful emergencies as burns and scalds, and, indeed, such knowledge cannot be too widely diffused. The summary given by Mr. Holmes, in his recent *Manual of Surgery*, is very concise and complete, and embodies large experience. He says:—

At the time of the accident, the main indications are to exclude the air from the burned surface, to allay pain by opiates, and to give stimulants in such quantities as may be necessary. The applications which are in use for burns are too numerous to mention, and the choice of one or other of them will depend in a great measure to the depth of the burn. A mere superficial scorch is best treated by some warm solution applied on a thick rag and kept constantly moist. Goulard-water with laudanum is perhaps as grateful as anything. Painting the surface with ink soon relieves the pain of a small superficial burn, or covering it with whitewash or some other similar substance, which will crust over it and completely exclude the air from it. Common flour thickly dredged on the part is a very good and handy application. But such crusts should not be applied over burned surfaces of the second degree, since their removal would soon become necessary, and this would drag off the epidermis. The bullæ should be pricked, the epidermis gently smoothed down, and some simple ointment put next the skin, or some oily substance which will not stick when it is necessary to change it. A very favourite application to these burns and to others of greater depth is the carron oil, made by mixing lime-water and linseed-oil in equal parts, and deriving its name from its having come into extensive use at the great Carron Foundry in the numerous burns occurring there. Oil of turpentine is a very good application to those in which the surface of the skin is quite destroyed. But for the first few days I doubt whether anything is better than simply swathing the part in thick layers of cotton-wool, which is prevented from sticking to the burned surface by some simple ointment (cerat. calaminæ is generally used) spread on thin soft linen or

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