

carried down to the prostatic portion of the urethra. This can be resorted to about twice a day, but more especially it should be used at night. I do not recommend the use of caustics; but if it should be your judgment that a certain case will be benefited by cauterizing the prostatic portion of the urethra, there is no more convenient instrument which can be employed for this purpose than *Lallemand's porte caustique*, which you see here.

The principal local treatment which I rely upon is the application of electricity. For this purpose an electro-magnetic battery may be used, to which is attached an urethral electrode, such as you see here. This instrument is insulated to nearly the entire extent, except that part which is to rest against the prostatic portion of the urethra. The other electrode has attached to it a sponge, which is applied over the fourth lumbar vertebra, the region in which the genito-spinal centre is said to be situated, and also down over the sacrum. Now, having introduced the negative electrode and brought its point in contact with the prostatic portion of the canal, allow only a very feeble current to pass through at first. Do not give the patient any pain in the use of this agent. Increase the strength of the current gradually, and use as powerful a current as can be done without causing pain. The first sitting should last about five minutes. If the sitting be too long, a numbness of the parts will be produced, which will for some time delay proper reaction. The following day, instead of using the urethral electrode, you may use the wire-brush, passing it over the inside of the thighs about the perineum, and at the same time applying the sponge over the sacrum and over the lumbar region. The sponge can be carried as low down as the verge of the anus. The third day the urethral electrode may be again employed. At the second sitting the current can be kept up for eight minutes. No sitting, however, should be extended over ten or fifteen minutes.

By a single application of electricity in this manner I have reduced the number of nocturnal emissions from four or five a week to one. When they have been reduced to this number there is no further cause for anxiety, for in healthy men these emissions may occur as frequently as once a week or once in two weeks without producing harm. After the second week you may substitute the rectal for the urethral electrode. The rectal electrode comes in contact with that portion of the bowel lying over the prostate gland, and the current of electricity will diminish the congestion and give tone to the muscular fibres of the gland.

Some authorities recommend the use of the continuous current in all cases of impotence; but I have found the interrupted current to answer all purposes, and I never use any other.

When you desire to increase or stimulate the erectile power of your patient, it will be well for you to change the direction of the currents several times during one seance.

MEDICAL TREATMENT.—There are certain combinations of medicines which can be resorted to with benefit in these cases, and one of the best prescriptions for a tonic mixture is the following:

℞ Strychniæ..... gr. j;
Quinæ sulph. h..... 3 ss;
Tinct. ferri muriat..... 3 ss;
Glycerinæ 3 iv.

M. et S. One half teaspoonful in a wineglass of water four times a day, half an hour before meals and at bedtime.

This is a most excellent tonic in all cases of general debility, and it will also promote erections, although it is not given for that purpose.

There are some patients who prefer to take their medicine in the form of pills. The following combination is tonic, and has more tendency to excite erections than the former:

℞ Arsenite of iron..... } aa grs. v.
Ext. nux vomica..... }
Ergotine. } aa 3 ss.
Sulphate of quinia..... }

M. et Div. in pil. No. xxx. S. One pill four times a day.

In cases in which constipation is a prominent symptom the ergotine may be dropped, and aloes, grs. x, can be substituted. But it is not necessary that you should confine yourselves to the use of these combinations of remedies. You may resort to the use of any tonic prescription with which you are familiar, and which, perhaps, may be a favorite.

MEDICINAL TREATMENT OF IMPOTENCE.—We will next suppose that our patient has been under treatment for some time, that his general health and strength have greatly improved, but that his erections are still imperfect. Now you can give him some of those drugs which are said to possess the power of producing venereal excitement—*aphrodisiacs*. A very common pill employed for this purpose, and one which is productive of good results, provided its effects are closely watched, contains:

℞ Ext. nux vomica..... gr. 1
Phosphorus..... gr. 100

M. To be taken after meals.

Phosphorus is a powerful stimulant to the genital organs. It will be sufficient to administer the above pill twice a day. If it should disorder the stomach, stop its use at once. If you do not wish to use the phosphorus, you may resort to the fluid extract of damiana, giving it in half-drachm doses three times a day.

There is another remedy which will often operate favorably for this purpose, and that is the common drug known as water pepper. The tincture may be employed and administered in half-drachm to drachm doses. It can be resorted