

the burning pain in my breast, may it not also ease this burning pain in my arm?" Her argument induced me to try it, so getting a small camel-hair pencil, I applied it all around the shoulder and under the arm, thus covering the extreme boundary of the erysipelatous rash and about two inches of the sound skin. I went to visit her the same evening and was surprised to find that the erysipelas had not spread, at once I applied it freely all over the arm, thus painting, I may say, the whole extent of the surface attacked; the usual concomitant symptoms began to disappear. Next morning on visiting her I made a fresh application, she remarking that the burning sensation disappeared in a few moments after I had painted the whole arm. One more application same evening and one next day were all required, as upon washing off the dark-looking crust upon the arm it had returned to its normal size, color, and feeling. Very shortly afterwards I was sent for to a case of erysipelas of the face and neck. I applied the tincture pretty freely, taking care to go far enough upon the sound skin with it. Three applications eradicated the disease; since then I have had numbers of cases affecting, I may safely say, nearly all parts of the body, the worst one being where the right leg and side were affected from the toes up to the arm-pit; two dressings a day were all I used in this case as it covered a large surface. But where the erysipelas is more circumscribed I use it, say every four hours or oftener; to some patients I have administered the tincture at the same time, in doses of from two to seven drops three times a day, but I saw no difference in its effects. I cannot exactly say the number of cases I have had within the ten years past, perhaps twenty, and I have never known the application to fail in arresting the spread of simple erysipelas. I have made known the remedy to various of my medical friends in Shropshire, but have not heard of them ever using it except the late Mr. Clement, of Shrewsbury, who used some I gave him, and said it certainly had a wonderful effect, though he had only tried two cases. It is an American preparation made by "Keith, of New York," supplied to me by "Twinberrow & Son, Cavendish Square, London." I should be glad if some of my medical brethren would get some, use it alone in treatment of any cases they may have, and make known the results in the columns of this paper. Having never heard nor read of this tincture ever being used in this country (of course I do not know what any of our transatlantic brethren may have done), but I think if there is any specific in it, it should have a trial. I forgot to mention that in some cases I diluted it with equal parts of whisky, and generally gave a mixture containing *nit. potass.* and *hyoscyamus*.

Bishop's Castle, Salop, Dec., 1873.
—*Dublin Medical Press.*

PHOSPHORUS IN NEURALGIA.

In October of last year I wrote a letter to the *British Medical Journal*, calling attention to the value of phosphorus in the treatment of neuralgia. Since this date I have given it a somewhat extensive trial,

the general result of which is to confirm the favourable report I made of it in my first letter. I have prescribed it in various neuroses, in melancholia, in impotence, in mercurial tremor, in locomotor ataxy, etc., but have come to the conclusion that its value is most conspicuously and constantly seen in cases of nerve-pain, accompanied or caused by asthenia: indeed, while it has appeared to me quite inert in most of the separate diseases I have mentioned above, it has rarely disappointed me, when properly administered, in true cases of anæmic or asthenic neuralgia, amongst the remedies for which disorders I believe it will ever hold a high and secure place. Its mode of administration is, however, of importance; and while in many respects agreeing with Mr. J. Ashburton Thompson in his remarks upon this remedy, which appear in the *Practitioner* for July, I cannot indorse his statement as to the wisdom, or even the safety, of beginning with a dose of one-twelfth of a grain every four hours. Mr. Gubler, in a recent number of the *Bulletin Général de Thérapeutique*, is more correct, I think, in urging great caution in the administration of this powerful remedy: indeed, in the seventeen cases treated by Mr. Thompson, one suffered from serious and alarming symptoms, as the result, we may fairly presume, of the phosphorus, which was administered in the dose of one-twelfth of a grain. My custom is to commence with one-hundredth of a grain, and gradually increase this by one-fiftieth of a grain at a time, until, if necessary, one-tenth of a grain is taken with each dose. Beyond this quantity I do not go; as I think that, if the remedy be of use, relief will be attained by this dose equally with a larger. After trying several preparations, I now use a formula which Mr. Potts, dispenser to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, hit upon, and which seems to answer every purpose, in being tasteless, transparent, and readily prepared. He dissolves ten grains of phosphorus in two ounces of ether, agitating the solution from time to time; and of this solution, one minim (containing one-hundredth of a grain) is administered in an ounce of water with half a drachm of glycerine. The glycerine suspends the phosphorus so perfectly that a transparent mixture is the result. The addition of a little bitter infusion entirely removes any *souçon* of lucifer-matches which may hover about the medicine.

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NITRIC ACID IN THE TREATMENT OF HOOPING-COUGH.

Mr. Berry states (*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Feb., 8, 1873), that he has found dilute nitric acid, in doses of from five to fifteen minims—according to age—with simple syrup, given every three or four hours, to alleviate the cough and spasm, and apparently cut short the disease. In all cases, at the same time, Mr. B. has paid attention to the state of the digestive organs, and in such cases as required it he gave an aperient combined with a laxative.