

Liquor Ammonie Fortior.—Its specific gravity is .891, and it contains 32½ per cent of ammoniacal gas. In ordering it from the druggist its sp. gr. should be stated.

Liquor Ammonia.—Strong solution of ammonia one pint; water, two pints: mix.

Linctum Iodi.—Iodine 5 oz.; iod. potassium two ounces; rectified spirit 20 fluid ounces. This is the tincture of iodine intended for external use. We doubt, however, whether many persons could endure it of this strength, for we have found that two ounces in the pint is too strong for general use.

CHRONIC DIARRHŒA AND DYSENTERY.

BY HENRY M. LAMAN, M.D.

While waiting, yesterday, for a train at a railway station near this city, my attention was attracted to the history of his experience with which lieutenant of the 7th Kansas Cavalry Regiment was entertaining an acquaintance. This officer was a tall, robust man, in the prime of life, in perfect health, at home on furlough with his regiment, which had lately re-enlisted in the veteran corps. For more than two years he had been in active service, jay-hawking in the wildest regions of the southwest. It was a life he enjoyed, so full of excitement and activity. At the close of the Mexican war he said he was attacked (in New Orleans) with diarrhœa, which remaining unchecked, soon became chronic—the regular *camp dysentery*. Treatment seemed to produce no effect; several physicians abandoned the case in despair; and after several months had gone by, death seemed imminent. From about one hundred and sixty pounds, his weight had fallen to ninety, and emaciation was still progressing. One day, however, as he was brooding over his sufferings and wretched condition he became impressed with the idea that if he could “be thoroughly greased inside,” he would get well. He at once procured a quantity of castor oil, and swallowed a tumblerful. No purgative effect was produced by this draught, only a portion of the oil was voided unchanged the next morning. This application, for it was nothing else, afforded great relief, and was repeated every day. Recovery commenced immediately, and in a few weeks time was complete, and has never been followed by any return of the disease.

My own observations, while on duty in the hospitals at Nashville, taught me the great value of castor oil in the great majority of cases of chronic disease of the intestines. One case, a hospital orderly who was with me five months after his recovery, had suffered four months with diarrhœa, which had reduced his flesh “nearly one-half,” he said. A few doses of castor oil and laudanum relieved him completely, and he experienced no further trouble while under my observation. In the management of these cases in hospital practice, much depends upon the nurse. In most of the wards I found dysentery and diarrhœa very intractable, but I had one nurse whose patients nearly all recovered. When castor oil was ordered in his ward it was taken; and when an injection was prescribed, it was always administered, no matter how great the reluctance of the patient to submit to an operation which our western soldiers seemed to dread more than the loss of blood.

The treatment which we found most successful consisted in perfect rest, total abstinence from water, counter-irritant applications to the abdomen,

cholagogues *pro re nata*, castor oil combined with laudanum. When there was much pain and frequent ejections, when the colon was diseased, starch enemata, containing oxide of zinc, and morphia or belladonna, were used.

When there was pain in the sigmoid flexure, attended with purulent discharges, we derived great benefit from the use of tr. iodin. co., dissolved with a small portion of extract of belladonna in glycerine, and carried to the seat of disease through a long, flexible injecting pipe. In this way an officer, attached to the staff of Maj.-Gen. Rosecrans, was cured of ulceration of the sigmoid flexure. His military zeal, however, carried him too soon again into active service; and after a few months of exposure and fatigue the disease returned, and will probably continue to harass its victim, so long as his restless energy continues to interfere with that perfect repose without which all medication is useless.

Another officer of the same staff, who came home, from the war in Mexico I think, with a chronic dysentery, which resisted all the usual forms of treatment, and was rapidly destroying him. With characteristic decision he at length made up his mind that “the thing must be stopped,” so, having purchased a syringe and a quantity of excellent brandy, he shut himself up at home and proceeded to fill his colon with the undiluted liquor every night and morning. At the end of three weeks he was well, and has been well ever since. This may seem like heroic treatment; it was certainly endured with heroic fortitude, for the pain attending each injection was terrific; “it was like throwing liquid fire into the bowels.”—*Am. Med. Times*.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 23, 1864.

TREATMENT OF ABSCESS BY CHLORINE WATER.

M. Herveux recommends injections of chlorine water in the treatment of chronic abscess. In 1858, while acting for M. Noel Guéneau de Mussy at the Pitié Hospital, he had under his care a man who had a deep fistulous opening in the groin, which had resisted all kinds of treatment, and to which, for several months, nothing but simple dressing had been applied. M. Herveux employed injections of chlorine water, varying the strength according to the state of the parts; and in less than a week the fistula was perfectly healed. In a very obstinate case of large axillary abscess lately under his care, he has employed the same means, with the results of rapidly producing contraction of the cavity and improving the health of the patient, a young woman aged twenty.—*Bull. Gén. de Thé.*

NITRATE OF SILVER IN DYSENTERY.—Dr. Caradec, in *L'Union Médicale*, calls attention to the great use of nitrate of silver in dysentery. He administers it both by the mouth and in the form of injections. He first of all clears out the intestinal canal with castor oil or Epsom salts; and then gives, night and morning, a lavement, with about 4 or 4½ grains of nitrate of silver. Each time immediately before giving the lavement, the rectum is washed out with a simple injection of water. A few drops of laudanum are added to the nitrate of silver injection, if the rectum be irritable. He gives pills of one centigramme (3-20ths of a grain) of nitrate of silver, if the injections should happen to fail.—*British Medical Journal*.

The smallest quantity of opium on record, which has ever proved fatal to a grown person, is four grains and a-half.—*Guy*.