

grammes (1½ grains), distilled cherry-laurel water 5 grammes. Mix. One or two drops on a lump of sugar before meals. The subnitrate of bismuth and prepared chalk may also prove beneficial, by covering the ulcer with a protective film. If there be constipation English magnesia will serve the same end at the same time as it performs the office of the alkali. The nitrate of silver, vaunted by Troussseau, and the perchloride of iron have no curative or appreciable action, and the latter remedy may give rise to acute pain. As for external agents, canteries, moxas, etc., although their indication appears rational, they possess no efficacy. This is not true of flying blisters, which have often allayed the pain and arrested vomiting. Tepid baths may also be useful when there is febrile action. As for the convalescence, it does not differ from that of other diseases. Tonics, re-constituants, sulphurous or saline baths, hydrotherapy, etc., may be advantageously employed. *Abeille Medicale*, 10th Sept., 1877.

From *Lyon Medical*.

ON DILATATION OF THE URETHRA BY THE URINE ITSELF.

This process of dilatation, which M. Berenger Ferand seeks to bring again into fashion, originated with Brunninghausen, who made it known at the end of the last century. Here is the *modus faciendi* as it is described in the *Bibliothèque Germanique Medico-Chirurgicale*:—"Brunninghausen has discovered a method, easier, more convenient, and simpler than that by bougies, and he recommends practitioners to give it a trial; it consists in dilating the urethra by the urine itself. For this purpose it is necessary for the patient each time he wishes to micturate to lightly compress the urethral canal with the fingers behind the glans. Supposing that constriction be near the neck of the canal, as often happens, the pressure ought to be sufficiently strong to prevent the urine escaping except with difficulty and after having sojourned some time in the canal, which, by this means, will be found more or less dilated throughout its whole length, and consequently at the strictured spot. The patient taking care to repeat this operation every

time he is obliged to micturate, he will obtain, little by little, by this means, the same effect as would be expected from the use of bougies, without experiencing any of the inconveniences of these latter." To the facts cited by Brunninghausen, M. Berenger Ferand adds several gathered from his own practice, and relating to old men affected with prostatic engorgement with difficult micturition. The following are the terms in which the physician in chief of the navy expresses himself upon the object and bearing of Brunninghausen's proceeding:—

1st. Dilatation of the urethra by the urine being repeated at each urination, and for a long time after an attack of blennorrhagia of a certain duration, appears to me to be, judging from the facts which have come under my observation, a prophylactic means against urethral strictures.

2nd. In cases of stricture not far advanced it appears to me, as Brunninghausen has stated, to have re-established the urethral calibre if not in its normal proportions, at least sufficient for a reasonably easy micturition.

3rd. After operations of urethrotomy it is perhaps a useful means of preventing, or at least of notably retarding the return of, the coarctation which is too often reproduced with disheartening obstinacy.

4th. In cases of prostatic varices of the neck of the bladder, and of the membranous portion of the urethra, it appears to me also calculated to be of service.

5th. There is another category of cases which do well under dilatation of the canal by the urine itself: it is those in which a partial or total hypertrophy of the prostate deforms more or less the neck of the bladder and the corresponding portion of the canal, cases which are often enough met with in old men. It happens in individuals who are thus affected that the first drops of urine, which they emit with so much difficulty and delay, act efficiently in filling the canal when the meatus is compressed. This canal once re-established in its ordinary calibre, then easily gives passage to the remainder of the contents of the bladder. The proceeding which we have just considered has then the happy effect of only allowing the difficulty of emission to exist for the first drops,