

ed in two ounces of thin mucilage of acacia. The result without an exception, in every case which I have thus treated, has been the expulsion of a dead worm within two hours after taking the remedy, and in one instance the worm was passed in fifteen minutes.

"I have had no difficulty in getting the patients to submit to this mode of treatment, nor have they complained of hunger. In order, however, to enable them to bear without much discomfort the prolonged abstinence from solid food, the supply of good beef-tea has, as I have stated, not only been unlimited, but each patient has also been kept in bed during the whole of the treatment.

"The principle of this mode of treatment is, evidently, simply that of emptying the stomach and small intestines by abstaining from all solid food, and by purging; and so, by thus thoroughly uncovering the worm, exposing it to the full and almost immediate action of the remedy.

"I have never, in a single instance, given more than one dose of the drug before the parasite was expelled; nor has the two-drachm dose given as I have mentioned, caused vomiting or troublesome purging; and in every case the worm was passed dead, and generally in one unbroken piece. No medicine of any kind is given except that which I have before mentioned; and, in a few hours after the worm is passed, the patients are restored to their ordinary diet.

"Before I was in the habit of preparing patients by the previous purging and abstinence which I have described, I generally found that the oil of male-fish failed as a remedy for the cases under consideration; but since I have adopted the mode of treatment which I now make public, I can say that I have never known it fail; and I cannot but feel certain that the remedy in question, if given as I have mentioned, will, invariably, first poison, and then quickly dislodge this troublesome parasite from the human body." WEB.

TREATMENT OF IMPOTENCE.

By WILLIAM ACTON, M.D.C.S.

(Concluded.)

Cantharides have been employed against impotence. They form the basis of the *Pastilles de Sérad*, as well as of the numerous pills, pastes, and opiates which constitute in the East the principal commerce of all those who sell drugs. The Spaniard enters largely into the *diacolini* and other aphrodisiac preparations, still too much employed in Italy. Lallemand protests strongly against the use of this drug. "The effect," he says, "produced by cantharides on a healthy man has induced persons to believe that they could restore virility lost from excesses. Thus, charlatans, and even many legitimate practitioners, have at all times prescribed cantharides as a traditional resource. For my own part, I have seldom met with an impotent person who has not had cause to regret the use of this drug. The greater proportion have not even experienced the momentary benefit which they expected, and in many cases the erectile tissues have become smaller than in the habitual state of repose. Some few have experienced erections more or less energetic, which have lasted a longer or shorter period; but the loss of semen has exasperated symptoms instantaneously or very shortly afterwards."

No doubt can exist that the habitual employment of cantharides is prejudicial, but in the present day

when this substance is no longer given as indiscriminately as it was formerly, the surgeon may often advantageously prescribe it. Thus, when erection is feeble, when the fears of the patient greatly influence his mind, or when there is doubt of success, in the copulative act, a few doses are very advisable. But after success, the remedy should be left off, for we do not want to excite the organs frequently, as the repeated shocks on the nervous system will often only further depress the vital powers.

Phosphorus is another of the pharmaceutical preparations which the modern surgeon frequently employs in the treatment of impotence. The object is to supply that particular pabulum which the exertion of nervous influence appears to exhaust. We may theoretically infer that in these complaints there is a great expenditure of phosphorus in its various combinations, and that there may be a deficiency of this substance in the system; just as in other diseases, particularly chlorosis, there is a deficiency of iron. In either case we should supply the system freely with the element it seems to need in such a way as that it may be easily taken up and retained in the circulation. Practice, as well as theory, seems to sanction this treatment, and I must admit that phosphoric acid in combination with syrups of orange-peel and ginger is a favorite formula with me, particularly in those cases where there is reason to suppose the semen is not secreted in sufficient abundance, or where too rapid ejaculation attends the sexual act, or when connection is attended with serious nervous depression.

Strychnine has been frequently recommended in the treatment of impotence, and, I believe, it is a very valuable tonic in cases attended with great nervous depression, whether resulting from sexual excess or any other cause. I have found it equally beneficial in those forms of impotence depending upon weak or imperfect erection. I find that it is capable of increasing the general muscular energy, and in such cases I usually prescribe it, either alone or in combination with quinine.

Electricity must be classed among the modern remedies for impotence. I have had considerable experience of this agent; and I have every reason to be satisfied with the results. I find that it has answered best in those lethargic constitutions that require rousing, and simply demand a local stimulant capable of determining blood and nervous power towards the generative system. When, on the contrary, there is debility dependent on previous over-excitement, this, as well as every other local stimulant, acts injuriously on the system. The patient can, by means of the batteries which may now be obtained anywhere, at no great cost, apply the remedy himself. I need hardly warn other than professional readers that this should never be ventured on except under medical advice.

Marriage has been classed among the remedies for the slighter affections of the sexual organs. It is very well to speak of it as advisable, and no doubt can exist that, in the slighter cases of nocturnal emission, the cure of the complaint will be speedily effected by marriage—that is to say, sexual intercourse will cause the disappearance of the nocturnal symptom.

In practice, however, the question comes before the surgeon in a different way. A patient will complain of a variety of local sexual ailments, which perhaps he has suffered from during long periods, and when he is asked why he wishes now to be