

which children suffer while teething. If hardness result from the cicatrization, it will facilitate the escape of the tooth instead of retarding it; for every tyro knows that a cicatrix is absorbed under pressure more readily than normal tissue. And as to the danger from hemorrhage, fifty years of constant and abundant experience in my own practice and observation of the practice of others around me when the operation was universal, have failed to bring within my knowledge a solitary instance of serious hemorrhage caused by lancing the gums. Upon the other hand, again and again have I seen the infant, when fretting and twitching and starting as if on the brink of a convulsion, fall into a tranquil sleep immediately after the process. More than once have I known the child close its jaws to press the lancet into the itching gums. One child I remember who would run to meet me as I entered the house, and open its mouth to invite what experience had taught it would relieve its suffering. By lancing the gums I do not mean slicing off the prominence, nor yet making a crucial incision. These are superfluous, if not barbarous, procedures. It is sufficient to scarify the swollen tissue in one direction to relieve the tension and remove a few drops of blood from the engorged vessels.—*Dr. Henry Gibbons, in Pacific Med. and Surg. Jour.*

TREATMENT OF ALCOHOLISM.

Dr. F. P. Atkinson (*London Practitioner*) writes as follows:

Some of the most distressing cases we, as medical men, are called upon to attend are those of alcoholism, and it has, unfortunately, fallen to my lot during the last few years to have several from time to time under my charge. A good deal has been written by different persons with regard to treatment, but I do not think this ought to deter one from putting on record his own personal observations, since it is only by accumulation of evidence that proper conclusions can be arrived at. As far as I can see, there would appear to be three different stages in the disease, viz.:

1. *Sleeplessness*, accompanied by a hard quick pulse; loss of appetite in the morning, and morning sickness.

2. *Draciness*, accompanied by a slow, somewhat compressible and excitable pulse; complete loss of appetite; and constant sickness. The blood has in it an excessive amount of hydrocarbon.

3. *Delirium*, accompanied by complete absence of sleep and the presence of horrible apparitions, especially at night. The pulse is small, quick, easily excitable and compressible. The blood is deficient in red corpuscles. Hydrocarbons are present in poisonous quantities; the brain un-

dergoes little or no repair. The vaso-motor nerve influence is almost entirely lost. The treatment I have found beneficial in each stage is the following:

First stage—*Træ. rhei*,.....min. x.
Træ. card. co.,..... 3 ss.
Træ. hyocyami,..... 3 ss.
Acid. hydrocyanic. dil., min. iij.
Sp. chloroformi,.....min. xv.
 Aquam ad $\frac{3}{4}$ i. quartis horis.

The prussic acid acts as a sedative to the stomach, heart, and brain. The hyocyamus has also to a certain extent the same effect.

Abstinence from stimulants in this, as in the other stages, is strictly enjoined, but when I find it difficult to get this carried out, I allow a glass of claret three times a day. It is essential that the patient gets plenty of light and easily digestible food, and with this object I order essence of beef, milk and eggs beaten up together, and barley water. This diet is suitable to each stage. The only thing to be said is the more the depression the more the nourishment.

Second Stage.—The treatment should be the same as just described, only it is as well to omit the prussic acid, as there is not the same excitement present.

Third Stage.—Chloral should be given in thirty-grain doses every four hours, till sleep comes on, and then repeated as often as necessary. The nourishment should be by no means forgotten, and stimulants should be strictly forbidden.

If chloral is gone on with beyond a certain time, a sleepless condition recurs, when nuxvomica and gentian should be given as follows:

Træ. nucis vomica,..... min. x.
Træ. gentia co.,..... 3 ss.
Ess. limonis,..... min. i.
Sp. chloroformi,..... min. xv.
 Aquam ad $\frac{3}{4}$ i. ter quaterve die.

This rarely fails to reinduce sleep, but if persisted in long after it has produced its effects, sleeplessness returns. When this is the case the tincture of gentian, calumba or chiretta should be given alone.

THE HOT BATH AS A RESTORATIVE.

There is one remedy whose employment in medicine is almost as old as is the human race, but which yet seems to us to have an important use not generally practiced. We refer to the hot bath. As sudorifics hot baths are sufficiently in vogue, but their employment as restoratives is not so universally recognised.

The phenomena of death from cold show that a lack of caloric in the body is no less paralyzing of animal functions than is an excess of the same force. Evidently the organism was constructed to run upon a certain plane of heat, and