

on the intestinal canal, met by giving it in a laxative vehicle, as a little compound colocynth pill, then its good effects are largely secured, while its evil consequences are eliminated; and the minimum of evil and the maximum of good are attained.

The same holds good in bronchitis where there is much cough, due to the irritability of the dry, swollen bronchial mucous membrane in the first stage of bronchitis. Here, again, the general practitioner is tempted to give paregoric, or its equivalent in some form, and immediate relief is given to the troublesome cough. But the treatment is neither rational nor is it successful; it is not the following out of the natural processes, but the traversing of them.

The stage of vascular turgescence precedes and is followed by that of free secretion; and the first stage is kept up, the longer the case goes on without recovery. The opium checks secretion, and thus retards the oncome of the second stage; while it relieves the cough. A dose of opium at bed-time, with a few grains of James' powder, so as to procure free perspiration, is admissable enough; and often attains the desired end of lowering the vascular tension and thus procuring a condition favourable to free secretion. But this desirable end is not always attained, and if opium be given in the day medicine, success is somewhat problematical. The day medicine should contain ipecacuanha with iodide of potassium, and the patient encouraged to inhale steam; and then the first stage will usually be effectually abbreviated. This treatment, however, is much more troublesome, and not nearly so striking in its immediate effects, as the plan of prescribing opiates. When the irritative cough is very troublesome, some bromide of potassium will probably be found useful in allaying the reflex action cough; while it is largely free from the drawbacks which attach to the exhibition of opium or morphia. There is, too, a difference betwixt the necessity for hypnotics at night in order to procure some of "Nature's sweet restorer, sleep," and their employment as sedatives during the day; as day cough, though annoying, is not so exhaustive as night cough. In hospital practice night opiates are necessitated still further in order that the owner of the cough

may not disturb the other inmates of the ward.

In the same way must neuralgia be regarded. When it is severe the patient is anxious for immediate relief; and the practitioner probably gives a dose of morphia hypodermically, and almost instantaneous relief is so afforded. Or, perhaps puts on a blister in facial neuralgia, and dusts the raw surface with morphia, or prescribes a liniment of aconite and belladonna and gives an opiate; or, if a very advanced practitioner, a dose of croton chloral, or of gelseminum, and the patient is speedily more comfortable. There is not so much objection to such immediate treatment if the practitioner only recognize the casual relations of neuralgia; and bear in mind Romberg's famous dictum about neuralgia: "Pain is the prayer of a nerve for healthy blood," that is, blood healthy in quantity as well as quality. But if the first treatment is successful in affording relief it is very apt to be continued; and so the patient's real condition is that of growing worse instead of better. It may be essential to the acquisition of the patient's confidence to provide immediate relief; but having so acquired it, the practitioner should proceed to the measures which are required in the patient's real interest, viz., the removal of all drains upon the system, the curtailing of effort, and the exhibition of tonics and hæmatics. The two commonest forms of neuralgia in women, viz., intercostal and facial, are both usually accompanied by leucorrhœa with menorrhagia, or the act of suckling; and it is only by attention to these drains, that such neuralgia can be effectually treated. Strychnia, quinine, phosphorus, arsenic, and chalybeates may afford relief of a more or less permanent character: but the removal of the drain, or the improvement of the digestive organs, if the anæmia be due to digestive assimilation, is as essential to cure, as is their specific remedy in the neuralgia due to malaria, to syphilis, to gout, or to lead poisoning.

Then, again, take the hypodermic injection treatment for sciatica. I have only tried it once. It gave me immediate relief; but in the long end that was the most unsatisfactory case I ever treated; and this was due to the treatment, I felt sure.