

THE TREATMENT OF SUMMER DIARRHŒA.

An interesting lecture on the summer diarrhœa of adults, by Dr. Horatio R. Bigelow, of Washington, D.C., is reported in full in the *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter*. We reprint the portion of it relating to the treatment of the disorder, as likely to be of practical service to many of our readers at this time of year :

In all cases where we have reason to suppose that there is undigested food in the alimentary tract it is good practice to exhibit at the very commencement a dose of castor-oil and opium. This somewhat nauseous admixture may be rendered palatable by combining with it compound tincture of cardamoms, oil of gaultheria, pulverized acacia, white sugar, and cinnamon water. Should there be extreme pain or cramp, a spiced hop poultice (hops, cinnamon, cloves, linseed, and brandy) over the abdomen gives much relief, while the subcutaneous injection of vi.-x. minims of Magendie's solution will quiet pain and nausea. If the stomach is incapable of retaining the oil it should be administered as an enema. A persistent diarrhœa should be treated with powders of oxide of zinc with bicarbonate of potash, or with gallic acid and opium. Where the anæmia is marked, the debility extreme, and the diarrhœa malignant, in the sense that some anæmias are said to be malignant, there is no more desirable mixture than the elixir of calisaya bark and aromatic sulphuric acid. If the tendency be to cholera, quinine and ergot, or carbolic acid, should be given with hot brandy punches, with laudanum, or the subcutaneous injection of the hydrate of chloral. The simple uncomplicated diarrhœa that one meets so often in the summer will usually yield to a little chalk mixture, with tincture of krameria; when more severe we may use a mixture of tincture of opium, spirits of chloroform, alcohol, and spirits of camphor. An enema of the sulphate of copper before breakfast is useful in many cases of great tenesmus. As a general rule, when sent for to attend a case of cramps resulting from unripe fruit, or anything of that nature, I order a castor-oil enema at once, with the immediate application of a hot spiced hop poultice over the abdomen. If necessary I add a subcutaneous injection of morphine, and leave the patient with the assurance that he will be well in a few hours, and that nothing more will be necessary. If an adult patient comes to my office complaining of an active diarrhœa attributable to no other cause than that of heat and over-exertion, I order him a few powders of the oxide of zinc and bicarbonate of potash, to be followed by a mixture of the elixir of calisaya and sulphuric acid.

If the diarrhœa be due to constipation, we have nothing better than a pill of extract of nux vomica, extract of belladonna, with extract of physostigma. These should be taken regularly to overcome the habit, which is due probably to a relaxed condition of the muscular coat of the bowel. The anæmia of

malaria attended with diarrhœa is admirably treated with a pill containing chinoidine, sulphate of iron, and the resin of podophyllum. Astringents, as we usually understand the term, are of no possible avail. They do not reach the seat of the disease. An ordinary bilious diarrhœa, not due to catarrhal or obstructive jaundice, will generally yield to a pill containing Turkey rhubarb, resin of podophyllum, and blue pill, with a little hyoscyamus, to prevent griping. After decided action has resulted we may put our patient upon a mixture containing dilute nitro-muriatic acid. The diarrhœas preceding attacks of icterus are treated with a pill of purified ox bile, sulphate manganese, and podophyllum, or with the hydrated succinate of the peroxide of iron. In the reflex diarrhœa due to intense heat, with excessive mental excitement, we have a remedy above all others,—finely powdered ice applied to the whole length of the spine, in one of Dr. Chapman's ice bags, for one or two hours at a time, has a wonderful and immediate effect. It relieves the hyperæmia of the nerve centres, tranquillizes nervous irritability, overcomes insomnia, and checks the diarrhœa. In diarrhœas generally, attended with great nervous prostration we have nothing in medicine of half the value. In these cases the great object to be attained is to subdue as rapidly and completely as possible the hyperæmia of the spinal cord and sympathetic ganglia, and re-establish the healthy equilibrium of the circulation; and, while the future may demonstrate the way in which this may be accomplished by galvanism, we have not now any means of reaching the automatic nervous centres comparable to that of ice applied along the spine, together with heat to the general surface. With this we may give bromide of lithium and calisaya, or the elixir of calisaya, quinine, and strychnia.

DOUBLE PNEUMONIA AND ABORTION.

Dr. L. A. Rutherford reports the following interesting case to the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*. The case is of so great interest that we publish it in full :

On the 14th of March I was called to see, with another physician, a white woman, aged thirty-three; skin very hot; both cheeks flushed; eyes suffused; respiration about twenty-three; pulse 120. Complained of severe pain in both sides of the chest, Cough constantly. Both sides dull on percussion right side more involved. Respiratory murmur at upper part of both lungs very loud, as compared by some fine crepitation. Tongue very broad and flat, deeply furrowed in centre, base covered with a dense dirty, brownish fur; lips red; breath very offensive. Diagnosed double pneumonia. Ordered a large mush poultice, to cover both sides of the thorax, to be as hot as the patient could endure it. Acetate of ammonia, in one drachm doses, to be given every three hours. Five grains of acetate of quinine every six hours. Eleven a. m. next day pulse