

relieving them by the use of carefully graduated small doses of deodorized laudanum, given alone, or with sweet spirit of nitre, or with a moderate dose of bromide of potassium. Not until opium has failed, unless decided constipation exists, do I resort to the use of chloral or the bromides alone.

Time will not allow me to allude in detail to the measures which have proved, in my experience, most valuable in the treatment of the numerous complications of typhoid fever. When bronchitis becomes severe or pneumonia ensues, I substitute carbonate of ammonia for the nitrate of silver, continuing the use of full doses of quinia, increasing the amount of alcohol, and avoiding the use even of sponging with cool water unless the temperature goes over 105° Fahr.

By the observance of a very carefully regulated diet and the early use of nitrate of silver with minute doses of opium, the occurrence of troublesome diarrhoea is rendered rare. When it does occur, the diet should be even more carefully guarded and the amount of opium be increased, and, if necessary, acetate of lead, or a carefully prepared mixture of chalk and bismuth, with an opiate, be administered. Tympanitic distention of the abdomen often results from the fermentation of excessive or unsuitable food, and will be relieved by modification of the diet, and the administration of some such combination as the following :

℞ Creasoti purificat., gtt. v vel x ;
Bismuthi subnitratis, 3 i vel 3 iiss ;
Tinct. cardamomi comp., f 3 iij ;
Aquæ, q. s. ad f 3 v.

M. One tablespoonful every six hours.

But often also it comes from a quasi-paralytic condition of the intestinal coats which renders them incapable of resisting the expansive force of the gas enclosed. It is when tympanitis is due to this latter cause, and associated with the general symptoms of prostration and with wasted development of the typhoid state, but without much diarrhoea, that the internal use of oil of turpentine in emulsion (ten drops every three or four hours) will usually produce excellent results.—*Philadelphia Medical Times*.

THE ADVANTAGES OF CALOMEL IN THE DISEASES OF CHILDHOOD.

By E. MARLETT BODDY, F.R.C.S., F.S.S.

Calomel, by reason of its purgative properties, frequently causes green evacuations, and so does castor oil when the child is out of health ; but this phenomenon of disease ceases the moment the child becomes well. Therefore the green stools are not by any means produced by the calomel, but are caused by some morbid action going on in the intestines. When the child is ill the mother will almost invariably tell you that the evacuations are green and slimy. This assertion of the parent alone

proves that calomel, when given, is not the originator of green stools, but that they are produced by some morbid influence. I think the color is very probably caused by an over-secretion of bile, which will to a certainty show itself independently of the calomel.

As there is no fear of mercurialization arising from calomel, as it promotes the elimination of the over-secretion of bile, and as it restores the intestinal canal to its ordinary healthy tone, it is, without doubt, the best purgative we can possibly administer in *all* diseases appertaining to infancy, ignoring to a certain extent those of a congenital nature. Mercurialization can only occur when the drug is allowed to remain and accumulate in the system ; and to accomplish this the best method is to follow the general rule, viz., the administration of the hydrargyrum cum creta ; by so doing we shall be decidedly successful. But as this result is not desired we shall be able to prevent such an untoward complication by administering calomel by itself or combined with a small amount of sugar. This addition is not at all necessary ; in fact, I do not understand what advantage can be gained by combining the two. Calomel, I think, is quite as efficacious without sugar ; therefore it can be well dispensed with.

Regarding a very recent sage discovery made by a certain *savant*, that by giving to an infant calomel and sugar we may very likely poison it through the formation of corrosive sublimate while the compound remains in the stomach, though chemically true, yet I must say it almost verges on puerility. No case of poisoning has, I believe, occurred through the combination of calomel and sugar, and I dare say never will. I think we may consider it as bordering on the absurd until a *bonâ fide* case of poisoning resulting from the administration of calomel and sugar is brought before the profession and thoroughly substantiated as such. The discovery is ingenious, to say the least of it ; but it is of no practical utility when one considers it in the abstract. However, it is not for this chemical change in the stomach that I am advocating the non-administration of calomel and sugar, but because I do not see what can be possibly gained from the combination of the two. In such matters we can only judge correctly by the relative value of the results obtained ; and if calomel produces that which is to be desired by its own inherent qualities (which are not in the least enhanced or diminished by the sugar), then in *all* cases, I say, of infantile disease we may with safety and advantage administer it by itself. In dropsy, one of the sequelæ of scarlet fever, some compound jalap powder may be combined with it with advantage, though I have found that calomel alone is equi- as efficacious, even supposing that there is albuminous urine. Calomel may also be combined with santonin in cases of worms ; but of this anon.

We have now ascertained conclusively, I think, that it is highly injudicious to give infants hydrargyrum cum creta, owing to one ingredient, stultify-