

in most of the recorded cases, the temperature again rose, and before the treatment could be again applied the man died. Another case of acute rheumatism, in which the temperature rose to the very unusual height of 110 deg. Fahr., occurred last week in one of the London hospitals, and in this case also the application of cold water was about to be carried out when the patient died.

We mention these cases because they illustrate the chief points of importance to be remembered in practically carrying out this remedial agent, viz, immediate action on the part of the physician, careful watchfulness over the condition of the patient for some time after the desired reduction of the temperature, and the repetition of the treatment if the temperature again rise. In the first of the three cases which we have noticed the treatment was persistently carried out, with ultimate and perfect success; in the second, the treatment by cold no less answered its purpose, so far as the urgent symptoms were concerned, but, unfortunately, was not continued when the temperature again rose; and in the last, the urgent symptoms were recognized too late, or developed themselves so rapidly that the patient died before the proper means for the reduction of the hyperpyrexia could be carried into effect. That a great and most dangerous rise of temperature will occasionally occur in cases of acute rheumatism within a period of even an hour, we can from personal experience testify, and Dr. A. P. Stewart described, several years ago, the details of a case which occurred in the Middlesex Hospital, and in which the patient, apparently well advanced in convalescence, and entirely free from joint-affection, showed a sudden elevation of temperature as high as 111 deg. Fahr., which was followed by death in less than two hours. But so rapidly fatal an issue has very rarely been met with, and its occasional occurrence does not materially alter our estimate of the very great practical value of the cold treatment in hyperpyrexia in acute rheumatism.

In previously directing attention to the subject of the treatment of pyrexia and hyperpyrexia by the external application of cold, we pointed out its wide applicability to the treatment of disease, and remarked on the gratifying results which had been obtained in a very large number of cases of typhoid fever and other affections by Liebermeister and others. We then advo-