

ing the general ground of rest and diet, remarked on the use of purgatives and opiates as follows:—

Some years ago, he always gave purgatives and without bad effects, and had often seen cases where the patient had taken a dose of some aperient of his own accord, and that no ill-effects resulted. It is quite true that some have regarded purgatives as dangerous, but perhaps in isolated cases, and without duly considering all the circumstances.

Going on to the discussion of the administration of opium he remarks that this drug is valuable when properly employed. It is quite true that if given in too large quantities, and in the hands of the inexperienced, it may "mask the symptoms"; but not so when properly used and by those who have experience with the disease and the administration of opium. The application of heat and cold for the relief of pain he does not regard as of much value, but thinks they are harmless.

Mr. F. M. Caird, Edinburgh, states: "I generally apply an ice bag, wash out the rectum, and wait for a day or two. If, when under observation, the patient did not improve, or if, after a temporary lull, symptoms again—within ten days—become exacerbated, operation is indicated."

The late Prof. Hermann Nothnagel lays down the medical treatment in his system of medicine thus:—

The most important thing is to enforce quiet, both general and for the intestines in particular. If the patient is not already on his back, he should be put to bed at once. This applies to all cases.

Food should be withheld in all acute cases. There is no objection to a little water by the mouth in tablespoonful amounts, as this is absorbed by the upper portion of the digestive canal. It should not be ice cold. When nourishment is given by the mouth it should be liquid in form, soups with egg, somatose, or artificial infants' foods. Milk should be given with care, as it tends to cause flatulence and peristalsis. Care should be taken for some time, and everything that tends to distend the intestines or cause gas formation must be avoided.

He strongly urges the proper use of opium as a means of giving the patient rest and restraining the disease. The objection that the drug masks important symptoms is not true, as, with care, enough can be given to relieve the pain and aid in the arrest of the disease without producing such conditions as will obscure the real state of the patient. The constipation may be allowed to continue for four or five days.

Moist hot or cold compresses are helpful. Prof. Nothnagel prefers the latter, in the form of an ice bag, or ice-cold coil. This use of ice-cold water is highly favored also by Dr. Lees, of London.

The employment of purgatives is strongly condemned. Everything should be done during the first few days to put the parts into a condi-