

ON THE TREATMENT OF MENINGEAL HEMORRHAGE.

In the recapitulation at the close of an able article on hemorrhage in the meninges by Dr. Jas. F. Goodhart, in *Guy's Hospital Reports*, he says :

"1. It is a disease of old age, and as such in a large proportion of cases is associated with renal disease, a large heart, and bad arteries, and that the arterial tension is therefore high.

"2. It also occurs in young people when the heart is enlarged from valvular disease, not infrequently from an aneurism in one of the larger cerebral trunks, occasionally from embolism, occasionally in purpura.

"3. It is a disease which not infrequently is recovered from.

"4. The gray matter of the convolutions often gives evidence of considerable deterioration, even in cases which have apparently recovered.

"To relieve the high tension which is so prolific a source of cerebral hemorrhage, no remedy is so effectual as free purgation ; and I think there can be no doubt that this means should always be resorted to, both as a means of prevention, which, if carefully guided, may avert the danger of an impending stroke, and which, even when the seizure has come, may yet do much good by lessening the blood-pressure, and so avert further bleeding.

"From the same point of view it seems to me that venesection is a sound practice, and should be adopted, unless there are any special contra-indications which the particular case under treatment may suggest. It is a rapid way of relieving arterial tension, and rapidity is required when hemorrhage has occurred, and the pulse still keeps hard and strong. Ice should at the same time be applied to the head, and the head and shoulders should be raised. By so doing the circulation is reduced locally to its quietest, and risk of further bleeding guarded against as much as is possible.

"To advocate the use of cold locally might seem rather contradictory to the practice which would be suggested by the remarks I have made on the cause of sudden death in some of these cases ; and so it is ; but to restrain the

extent of the hemorrhage is so imperative that any secondary or remote risk must not for the moment be considered.

"With regard to the large heart, I should feel dissatisfied, if the other measures were not sufficient, to rely upon the administration of the tinct. of aconite. When the extravasation occurs in valvular disease of the heart and in embolism, but little can be done beyond applying the general rules of treatment which are applicable in this or that state of the heart.

"When, however, meningeal apoplexy occurs in young people, and an embolism is probable, the possibility of the existence of an aneurism must be remembered, and an effort made to establish or negative its presence. An intracranial aneurism has already been diagnosed during life, so that it is possible in some cases to diagnose one again, and in such a case it might even be necessary to obtain the surgeon's aid with reference to the possibility of cure or relief by operation.

"Lastly, I would lay especial stress on the fact that these hemorrhages are probably often present without being suspected ; that they occur from apparently trivial accidents ; and that if care is not exercised, cases which might have perfectly recovered pass on into a state of permanent degeneration of the gray matter of the brain, and even into states of chronic inflammation of the brain and its membranes, thus leading ultimately to confirmed epilepsy, to insanity, and even to death. It really then becomes most important after any severe knock on the head, associated with any brain symptoms whatever, but especially where headache is complained of, or if the slightest intellectual impairment is noticed after the injury, that prolonged rest and quiet to the cerebral circulation should be enforced ; and it need hardly be said that this is to be procured not merely by avoidance of much intellectual and bodily exercise, but also by the strictest moderation in eating and drinking."

The taste of quinine is admirably disguised by the Aromatic Elixir of Licorice. It removes in a great measure the difficulty of administering this drug to children.