

Of course we were able to make a cheerful prognosis, thereby relieving the minds of the patient and his friends. I may say, the intelligent young physician who had charge of the case, at once entered into my views as to the nature of the disease. Upon consultation as to the course of treatment, it was resolved to place the patient upon the use of iodide of potassium in combination with tincture of nux vomica, occasionally giving an aperient, and to employ anodynes to relieve him. The subsequent progress of the case was all that could be desired. The pain soon ceased, appetite and strength returned, and, in a word, the man made a most excellent recovery.

It is well known that lead and mercury, introduced into the system in sufficient quantities, unite with the tissues of the body, and in the case of lead, that the deposit takes place in the muscular structures, producing partial or complete palsy of certain muscles. We owe much to M. Melseu's who, by a series of chemical and clinical experiments, demonstrated that iodide of potassium was the true antidote to these mineral poisons, by forming a soluble iodide, whereby they become disengaged from the tissues, and are drained off by the kidneys. It is in this way, no doubt, that the iodide of potassium acts so beneficially in syphilitic affections after the use of mercury, and it is equally efficacious when the system becomes impregnated with lead. The use of strychnine and electricity as anti-paralytics, should not be undervalued in these cases, but they are only adjuvants, and secondary to any remedy which serves to eliminate the poison from the system.

There is one point in Mr. M.'s case of special interest, viz., the recurring paroxysms of faintness and fluttering, produced no doubt by the weak and faltering heart. In listening to the cardiac sounds of this man, the impulse was found to be feeble and the second sound indistinct. The influence of lead upon the heart has been established by such observers as Christison, Blake, Tanquerel and others. The heart is a muscular organ, and it is not surprising that lead should weaken the contractile force of that important organ, just as it may weaken or paralyze the extensors of the forearm, producing the "wrist drop" of lead palsy.

In every case of saturnine poisoning, the source of the lead should be carefully sought. Lead is so extensively used in the arts and manufactures,

that it exists all around us in protean as well as in subtle forms. The painter and the printer are not the only class exposed to its deleterious influence, but it is found in our wines, our sugar and tobacco, and bubbles to our lips from soda and beer fountains. A professional friend, to whom I mentioned this case, related an instance in which a delicate woman—a farmer's wife—suffered fearful lead colic, and had the violet streak of the gums, from using apple sauce kept in an earthen "crock," used all over our country, and glazed with lead. I remember the case of a woman, who consulted me about ten years ago, while practising in New York. She had lost the use of both hands, having had the "drop hand" of lead poisoning for years. Her husband kept a grocery, and I made the discovery that she was in the habit of taking the first glass of beer in the morning, from a beer fountain supplied through a leaden pipe. The muscles of the hand were wasted away from long disuse, and her helpless skeleton fingers rendered her an object of pity. In her case we gave the iodide of potassium in large doses, and she improved rapidly. The atrophied muscles began soon to develop, and in three months she had so far regained the use of her hands as to engage in her household duties. It was the proudest day of her life, she afterwards told me, when she could once more sew for her young family.

CHARLATANISM.

BY GEORGE GRENIER, M.D.

(Translated by THOMAS R. DUPUIS, M.D.)

Continued from our last.

As it is of the highest importance to correct such abuses as affect the public health in an injurious manner, we deemed it our duty to direct attention, in our last two numbers, to Charlatanism as one of the causes of real and continued mischief among our population.

The evil exists, and it behooves us to find a remedy for it; and we have already taken the first step in that direction, by calling attention to that class of pernicious persons—the Charlatans themselves—who speculate in human folly. But as it is not in our power to change the constitution of the human mind, and the reign of ignorance threatens