

the opening being little more than half-an-inch in extent. This operation is attended with no more pain than that of puncturing the tunica vaginalis. Its safety is established beyond a doubt. I have operated upon more than 400 patients in private practice and at the "Hôpital du Midi." M. Vidal thought that subsequent atrophy was almost an impossibility after this operation. The operation is, however, much older than M. Vidal, or any surgeon of this century.

Another method of treatment one might say unknown, at all events, neglected, except by a few, is acupuncture. That in lumbago, pain is relieved by this proceeding is almost beyond a doubt. Is it not by this process for which, to be sure, we have no scientific *rationale*, that pain in orchitis is relieved, and in those cases where relief has been given by hypodermic injections of water, did not the puncture effect a part of the relief given?

"I have treated a large number of such cases (lumbago) by acupuncture and find that it gives almost instantaneous relief." This is Dr. Ringer's statement.

Acupuncture is a remedial agent which had its day, experienced ups and downs, and seems to-day likely to recover its old place in the estimation of the profession. Its history may perhaps interest you. We are told by Dr. Elliotson, in his essay on this subject, in the *Encyclopædia of Practical Medicine*, that it is of very ancient origin; that the Chinese resorted to it from time immemorial, its use being founded on the principles of the old humoral pathology. The puncture, they thought, allowed the vapours to escape.

Zen Ryne, an officer of the East India Company, first brought to Europe an account of this treatment; publishing, in 1693, his "*Disertatio de Arthritide, de Acupuncturax*," &c. He, as well as Kœmpfer, a medical attaché to the Dutch Ambassador to Japan in 1691, reports that a needle is introduced into the belly in cases of colic, and allied conditions. The orientals did not limit this operation to the treatment of affections of the belly only. It is specially mentioned in connection with the treatment of swelled testicle. Thus, you see that the puncture of that organ in orchitis is

not of such recent date as many suppose. Dr. Elliotson states, that owing to the alarm excited by running needles into the flesh, and the high improbability of any benefit from such a practice, a hundred and seventeen years elapsed before any European practitioner made trial of it. It was mentioned in the writings of Dryardin and Vicqd'Azyr, some 100 years afterwards, but mentioned in order that the world might be congratulated that the statements of Zen Ryne and Kœmpfer had not induced any one to practise it; and it first attracted attention in 1810, from the strong support of M. Bertioz, of Paris. Numerous French practitioners imitated his example, with the same results. The English soon took it up, and acupuncture affords a striking instance of a good remedy discovered from groundless hypothesis, and condemned without a trial for above a century.

The treatment of gout, one would suppose, would improve from century to century. With, perhaps, the omitting of venesection, the gouty grandee of 1881 is treated scarcely better than he was a thousand years ago. Colchicum, which, as every one knows, is the alpha and the omega of gout, the "*anima articularum*" soul of the joints, was recommended and used by Alexander of Walles, a city of Lydia, in the sixth century, for cases of gout, not: under the name of colchicum, indeed, but of hermodactyls, which are said, by Sir H. Halford, to be one and the same thing. Alexander's prescription consisted of hermodactyls, ginger, pepper, cummin seed, aniseed, and scammony; which, says he, will enable those who take it to walk immediately.

Bullock's blood, which is used largely in the United States, as well as elsewhere, for a remedy, in consumption, was at one time thought to be poisonous, and it is reported by Plutarch that Hannibal put an end to himself by drinking it. Its use as a remedy in phthisis appears to have its origin with the Spaniards, for the earliest mention I can find of it is in some of Sir Henry Halford's lectures, published in the early part of this century: "An accomplished nobleman told me that he was present at one of the bull-fights at Madrid, when a person rushed into the crowd, and having made his