

remedies have been thus used, but more especially morphia. When first adopted it was thought to be eminently efficacious by acting directly on the painful part, but further experience has shown that an equally good result is obtained in whatever part of the body it is thrown. The advantages are that it acts speedily, and does not injuriously affect the system as when taken by the mouth. I have seen a gentleman who suffered agonies with spine disease take morphia in the usual way, and it produced sickness, parched mouth, and other unpleasant symptoms, and, at the same time, long before the system responded to its influence; but when injected through the skin it speedily soothed the system, relieved the local pain, and no unpleasant consequence resulted.

Then again, amongst the remedies for local nervous affections we have local remedies, and these are of various kinds. There is the class of soothing medicines already named, made into the form of liniments, ointments, etc. These are sometimes useful, but often less efficacious than applications of an altogether different kind, as blisters and hot applications. There are many instances where a blister is efficacious after every soothing remedy has failed, and, as regards hot applications, I cannot speak too highly. These are popular remedies, but nevertheless much more seldom used than a particular medicine which can be taken from a bottle, because, indeed, the latter practice entails far less trouble; but I know from experience that there is many a sciatica or lumbago which can be cured in a few hours by a constant application of heat. Besides the heat, stimulating lotions are often highly efficacious, as the tincture of capsicum or mustard. I dislike to hear that a patient has failed to gain relief from the medicine of some eminent Physician or Surgeon, when some old woman or quack has effected a cure by a simple method. Amongst popular remedies is the tinctura arnicæ. I cannot say that my experience of it has been large, but I have seen enough of it not to ignore it, but consider it to be sometimes a useful remedy. In one case of a patient who had a violent neuralgic pain following shingles, we used the arnica, and the patient soon got relief, but at the same time an eruption came out, which is very usual after the use of this drug. The lotion was then discontinued, the eruption faded, and the pain returned. In this case it seemed to act as a counter-irritant.

I should say that just as hot applications are useful in many painful affections of the nerves, so is the cold douche in some paralytic conditions. I have seen cases of writer's cramp and such-like maladies much benefited by allowing a stream of cold water to run upon the weakened limb.

As regards medicated plasters, they may relieve directly by the influ