

meet the exigencies of this case which was now beyond doubt one of acute eccentric tetanus rapidly increasing in intensity and demanding the most vigorous treatment. Having observed in the last number of Braithwaite's Retrospect (part 42) the treatment of this formidable disease by Tincture of Aconite and recollecting the well known influence that it exerts in destroying muscular irritability, also its powerfully sedative effects on the nervous and vascular systems, we were led to hope that in the present case its administration might be attended with beneficial results. Fleming's Tincture was given at first, 4 minims every two hours, except when the patient was inclined to rest. The diet throughout was the most nourishing that could be administered, conjoined with wine at frequent intervals, the bowels being constantly attended to by frequent injections.

8 P. M. There appeared to be a marked benefit evinced by a reduction in the severity of the symptoms generally, had some comfortable and refreshing sleep and considerable subsidence of irritability, system not appearing to suffer from the aconite, pulse 100, more regular, and the muscles which were previously firm and unyielding, became more pliable and extensible during the performance of the various organic functions. On the 4th so marked was the benefit derived from the aconite, that the patient during our absence walked into the adjoining room with comparatively little assistance. Such efforts were strictly forbidden, At this stage of proceedings the aconite was not given so frequently; being guided in its administration by the urgency of the symptoms.

4th 9 A. M. An entire change took place in the phase of affairs. On entering the room a most violent spasm was observed, longer in duration, more painful as to its effects and more lasting in its influence upon the system; during the night this sudden and unexpected alteration supervened. The spasmodic rigidity of the muscles of the jaw, neck, back, abdomen and lower extremities very violent and continuous, being now in a perfect state of opisthotonos, had drawn back the head with a perfect inability to raise it, the back forming an arch under which the hand could be passed without difficulty. The least noise produced by persons entering the room, opening the door or even the act of swallowing his saliva induced a severe fit of convulsive shuddering; skin cold and covered with a clammy sweat, pulse 120 weak and intermittent. The aconite had been discontinued some hours previously and diffusible stimulants in conjunction with strong beef tea, administered. The action of the heart became irregular, the diastolic murmur not being in consonance as to time with the systolic action, chest clear on percussion: the origin of several of the abdominal and thoracic muscles was well defined. During the severe paroxysms, an intensely exaggerated risus sardonicus was observable.

An unfavorable prognosis having been given owing to the circumstances of this case, during our absence the patient was placed under Homœopathic treatment. On the evening of the 7th he expired, muscular rigidity gradually subsiding as the real disease advanced to its fatal crisis.

CASE II.—Poisoning by strychnine; quantity taken 3 grains. Symptoms observed. Period of death. 12 hours from the period of its reception.

Mr. J. C. F. at 76 years, tall, muscular, well-built, exceedingly healthy, widow-