

the eating of some indigestible food, or digestive derangement, is at the root of the mischief; and, if we have reason to believe that such food is still in the stomach, as indicated by nausea, etc., an emetic of mustard, ipecacuan, or sulphate of zinc, may be administered at the outset. In all such cases, stimulating food and drink should be avoided, and the diet should be of the simplest kind.

In chronic cases, a similar line of treatment should be pursued under similar circumstances, and, where we have reason to suspect that it results from the digestion being disturbed by some particular kind of food, the nature of which varies in different persons, owing to their peculiar idiosyncrasy, we may with advantage follow the advice of Willan, who wrote, "I have desired several persons, affected with chronic urticaria, to omit first one, and then another, article of food or drink, and have thus been frequently able to trace the cause of the symptoms. This appeared to be different in different persons. In some it was malt liquor, in others, spirit, or spirit and water; in some, white wine; in others, vinegar; in some, fruit; in others, sugar; in some, fish; in others, unprepared vegetables." Like most other observers, however, he found that, in some cases, a complete alteration of the diet was not of the least avail. It would be quite out of place to refer to the means to be taken for the removal of the many other causes of this affection, as these must be treated upon general principles, and in the same way as we should do if they were independent of urticaria.

When no cause can be made out, or where the supposed cause has been removed, and the eruption continues to crop up, we must treat it emphatically. We may, for example, try the effect, as Trousseau suggested, of the administration of sulphuric ether in doses of twenty to forty drops in water, or of quinine in full doses, or of arsenic, which is only exceptionally useful. But the medicines from which, perhaps, most is to be expected are atropia and bromide of potassium; the former may be administered subcutaneously at night, or night and morning, the initial dose for an adult being $\frac{1}{100}$ of a grain (e.g., 5 minims of solution of one grain of sulphate of atropia in 500 in water); the latter in doses of ten grains dissolved in water three times a day. In either case the dose should be gradually increased, *either until the disease begins to yield, or until the supervention of the usual physiological effects* renders it unsafe to push the experiment further. Occasionally good results are obtained from the continuous current of electricity for ten minutes night and morning, one sponge (the positive pole) being applied to the top, and the other to the bottom of the spine.

In obstinate cases, a complete change of air and scene and occupation is desirable, and sometimes advantage is obtained from visiting one of the alkaline spas, as Vichy, or from a course for three or four weeks of the baths of Leuk, in Switzerland.

Local treatment is generally resorted to, more with the view of alleviating the distress of the patient than in the hope that it will cut short the disease. The parts, for example, may be sponged with vinegar and water, or with eau-de-Cologne, or with a lotion of carbolic acid. An ointment containing chloroform or a mixture of chloral and camphor may sometimes be of service, and in exceptional cases not only temporary relief, but permanent benefit may result from the use of the tarry preparations, such as a lotion composed of equal parts of tar, soft soap, and rectified spirit.

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MONTREAL, AUGUST, 1885.

The Canada Medical Association, at their meeting last year, were invited to hold their next meeting at Winnipeg. The invitation was accepted. Owing, however, partly to the rebellion in the North-West, and partly to other causes, the profession at Winnipeg find it unpracticable to entertain the Association this year. The Medical men of Chatham, Ont., have very promptly and heartily stepped into the gap and extended a cordial invitation to the Association to meet in Chatham, which we understand has been accepted. The outlook is very bright and a number of papers of interest are already promised. The time of meeting is the 2nd and 3rd Sept. next.

All members by applying to Dr. Stewart of Montreal, the Secretary, will be supplied with certificates, enabling them to go and return for one fare and a third.