

days, and the daily dose reached from  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to 15 grains. The eight patients were children. Along with the chloride of calcium, Rodolphi also administers day by day the extract of belladonna, and the intervention of this remedy necessitates considerable reserve in the interpretation of his results. The sulphate of aniline, advocated by Turnbull, ever since 1854, is credited to-day with a certain number of cures. The medicine is administered in solution, in doses reaching from 2 to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  grains daily; a drop of sulphuric acid is added to the solution. Some cases established the utility of calabar bean. A tincture is made of one drachm of the bean to one ounce of rectified spirit. Dose, 15 minims to a drachm.

Lastly, I am desirous of calling your attention to the powerful efficacy of the constant current. The application should be made over the vertebral region, with an ascending current so weak that the patient shall barely feel conscious of it. It is used once daily, at first for a minute and a half, afterwards from two to three minutes. I will bring this account to an end by a remark of a general character which must be constantly present to the mind of anyone who is desirous of estimating the value of a remedial method: chorea may get well of itself after a duration of 50 to 66 days. If, therefore, any treatment only proves efficacious in a length of time almost equal to the one I have mentioned, the termination of the disease may be attributed to its natural and favourable evolution quite as fairly as to medical intervention. On the other hand, a chorea which lasts beyond three months has lost all chance of a spontaneous cure; it has become chronic, and we know what tenacity is involved in that character—above all, in the adult, consequently, a remedy which overcomes a chorea of several months' standing may be legitimately pronounced efficacious.—*Medical Times and Gazette*.

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DEATH OF MR. ACTON.—William Acton, M.R.C.S., Eng., died suddenly on Dec. 7th, 1875, aged sixty-two, from fatty heart. Mr. Acton was well known as the author of several works on syphilis and genito-urinary diseases.

## TREATMENT OF CALCULOUS DISEASE OF THE KIDNEYS.

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\* \* \* During a partnership of over four years with a gentleman of this city (who is himself a man of remarkable professional instinct and ability), he passed hundreds of renal calculi. Most of them, it is true, were small, but a few were large, and their passage caused the most excruciating pain; one stone in particular, its passage from the kidney to the bladder having occupied ten days, caused the most fearful suffering and extreme exhaustion: in fact, our patient had for twenty-four hours all the symptoms of impending dissolution.

During these four years we read, and continue to read, everything procurable on the subject of "Calculus Disease of the Kidneys." I may say that this gentleman has tried various plans of treatment to prevent the formation of gravel, but with little or no success, as he is still manufacturing stones, having voided over seven hundred and fifty in one day a few weeks since. They had probably been several days accumulating in the bladder. The treatment employed by this gentleman in his own first few severe attacks, and also in those of other patients at that time, was exactly that recommended by Dr. Basham in the articles to which we referred. In fact, it was what all good authorities advised. We thought, like Dr. Basham, that "the most effective treatment is the hot bath, aided by anodynes. The combined effect of moist heat and opium relaxes the spasm of the duct, and relief is safely obtained. . . . It is very rare to witness a case in which the paroxysmal colic is not speedily relieved by opium and the hot bath. The temperature of the bath should be maintained at as high a degree as the patient can bear; the more profuse the perspiration induced the more speedy will be the relief." (*Practitioner*, Jan. 1875, p. 30.)

I have no hesitation in saying that this treatment advised by authors is at variance with our experience, as well as opposed to common sense and sound reasoning. It implies that it is by relaxation of the ureter that the calculus passes. And here is the mistake; it is no such thing.