

up by the acetic acid, is rendered harmless. But so far as present experience carries us, the hypodermic use of morphine is the cardinal remedy for the species of vomiting of which I speak. It must be used intelligently, fully, and fearlessly, and will exercise its effects both as a stimulant and as a gastric sedative far beyond those of any other remedy.

If it be conceded that it is useless to introduce stimulant or aliment into the stomach of a patient suffering from shock, it will be granted that it is not only useless but improper when vomiting is present; and here a previously cleaned rectum serves its owner well. Stimulants associated with such nutriments as can be readily absorbed should be periodically introduced. It is generally found that vomiting any more than shock does not persist with a warm surface, and therefore the three remedies I have indicated should be employed in the same sequence as in shock; first, heat; second, rectal stimulation and nourishment; third, morphine.

The distressing symptom of thirst is one which gives great trouble. There is nothing I have learned to discredit more thoroughly for the relief of thirst than ice. It increases thirst both directly and by the induction of vomiting. The emesis it produces is due to the quantity of water the sucking of ice insidiously introduces into the stomach. Nothing should be put into the stomach in these cases, so that ice is not only useless, but hurtful. Thirst is best relieved by frequent rinsing of the mouth with hot water, and by the occasional introduction of two or three ounces of warm water into the rectum.

In what I have said I have avoided speaking of details and methods; I have remembered that, although some of us are younger and less experienced than others, all of us in this room are educated in the factors of surgical science, and I have therefore tried to be suggestive rather than didactic, and to avoid details except in so far as they were necessary to the elucidation of principles.

If I may reduce to formulæ the matters I have referred to, I would put them thus:

1. That the tendency to prolong operations must be carefully guarded against, as it is a grave cause of danger.

2. That in the treatment of shock and vomiting following operation we get no help from the stomach, and must rely on the rectum as its substitute.

3. That heat, alcohol, and opiates are our best remedies; and that the latter are well borne, and must be intelligently used to their full effect.

4. That drugs of the class ordinarily used to check vomiting are of little or no use in the cases under consideration.

5. That ice does not relieve thirst, and does harm by introducing water into the stomach and so provoking vomiting.—*Br. Med. Jour.*

CANCER.

BY EARNEST LAPLACE, M.D., LL.D.

I wish, to-day, to give you a few general thoughts on cancer—an affection of such dread to all who are acquainted with it; so difficult to diagnose and treat—cancer, the bugbear of the medical student, especially when called on to distinguish between it, sarcoma and other growths. To begin with what we know about cancer. The word cancer means simply a crab, so named by the ancient pathologists from its eating or gnawing. At the present time it means nothing else than an hyperplasia, or excessive development of the cells in a particular part of the body. Now, these cells may either grow on the surface and bulge out or they may grow on the surface and dip into the tissue. According as they do one or the other, they are benign or malignant growths. Let us say, by way of illustration, it began on the surface of the skin in the epithelium. You all have been out rowing, and have noticed how callous your hand would become and how here and there was a "water blister." The oar acts as an irritant to the skin, and a congestion and hypernutrition is the result; the epithelial cells proliferate, accumulate in one spot, and there is a tumor or callus, under which may be found blood-serum, which, being absorbed, leaves the thickened epidermis.

On the other hand, the man is a smoker and smokes a pipe. The pipe always rubs the same spot. That man comes from a family of cancerous ancestors, and has a suitable soil or predisposition to cancer, if the chances are given for an irritant to enter the tissues. The man may have an abrasion on the lip; the pipe irritates it and causes an hyperæmia. Furthermore, there is another element that comes in, and this is a micro-organism. I cannot prove to you that this is the case, nor can I show you the germ, but it is allied to the germs that we know are the cause of other affections. In the case of the thickened epidermis of the hand, and when we have a corn on the foot, we have an irritant acting from without; but in epithelion, the irritant—a germ—acts in the tissues and causes the growing epithelium to be pushed down, and causes it to infiltrate into the tissues, while in the corn it is simply an accumulation of the epithelial cells on the surface. The ordinary corn or callus is an epithelioma in the true sense of the word, but time and usage have determined us not to call this an epithelioma. Now let us return to our smoker.

The pipe has irritated the crack or abrasion of the lip. The man is of a carcinomatous diathesis; just what a diathesis is we do not know, but he has the chemical condition within him which makes him a suitable soil to develop cancer. Such a condition is tuberculosis, that springs from