

I recollect that in Toronto General Hospital a patient was admitted under care of one of the most scientific and learned pathologists of the day, as he had shown symptoms of fever, and a cough. Out came the lancet and a free bleeding followed. Next day the patient was rapidly sinking. This case proved to be one of hectic fever. The doctor, seeing the ill effects, said he had not bled a patient for some time before, and would not bleed one again for a long time. Just at this period bleeding was losing favour.

Some of my text-books recommended bleeding and repeated bleedings in the treatment of scarlet fever and other cases, which now would be considered criminal practice. We seldom now see a patient bled for any disease whatever, and very few doctors have a lancet in their vest pocket as of yore. Even so with the use of calomel, which was such a universal remedy that in almost every disease it found its indication.

"If Mr. A or B is sick, send for the doctor and be quick,

The doctor comes with right good-will, but ne'er forgets his calomel."

Then it was not unusual to give ten grains at a dose, sometimes many times that. Now we have triturations made containing only the one-tenth of a grain, and by the judicious repetition of these minute doses we obtain more satisfactory results with less liability to unpleasant complications. Blistering with cantharides for pains or inflammation was often carried to brutality. I have seen patients blistered until the integument was removed from the chest, abdomen and side to such an extent that if the same condition was produced by a burn or scald we would expect a fatal result. Now very little use is made of this cruel remedy of doubtful utility.

While many of the older remedies are still in use and cannot be superseded, we are flooded with new therapeutic preparations to a bewildering extent, and it will require great discretion in the young doctor to make a wise selection and not to discard some of the older ones that are as useful and less harmful.

We live in a time when caution is our motto and the balance-wheel of our action. We study our patient as well as