

inflamed parts, or sthenic power, &c. &c. Want of power or debility, is even oftener seen in surgery than medicine—as exhibited in want of “tension” of the system to carry patients through a formidable operation, and the subsequent reparation of the injury. Surgical erysipelas, for instance, is a disease of debility, and wine one of the chief remedies. In the daily practice of medicine, I find wine to be our almost single direct tonic, and to act as a food, or, at all events, to economise food. I agree with the views of Dr. Todd on this subject. Of course, wine is only adapted to some cases, such as wasting fevers, or surgical cases for instance. Wine stops debilitating diseases like erysipelas, &c. Exercise may be a tonic. Iron may act as a tonic, or even minute doses of strychnine. But if you will apply the observations already made, you cannot be at a loss to find why they are tonics, and the best kind of tonics.

I have done enough to-day, however, if I have indicated a certain line of thought for you to follow. I could have wished that I could offer you something more of the vast number of facts bearing on this subject, and leading to this doctrine of debility depending on want of vital tension in the animal tissues. “It is not wings, but rather lead and weights,” says Lord Bacon—(“non pluma sed plumbum potius et pondera”)—that the human understanding wants; something to restrain its tendency to leap and fly at once from particular facts to universal principles.” You must not, therefore, from a few facts take these principles for granted till you have calmly worked them out for yourselves, in the practice of the wards of the hospital, if the subject is left with you in a fragmentary or imperfect shape—observed once of a lecture by Mr. Astan Key in this theatre—it is with the intention that you may go over it yourselves, and fill in the outline. One thing is, at least, quite certain—that the Medical Schools are passing out of the old doctrine of heroic blood-lettings and antiphlogistics; and the treatment by stimulants of this “general debility,” of which I have spoken, has become a reigning fashion. Still, as I said already, the term “general debility” is a negative term, a lazy term, an indefinite term, except we examine it below the surface, and prescribe accordingly.

THERAPEUTICAL RECORD.

New Local Application in Erysipelas.—M. Anciaux speaks in high terms of the following application for erysipelas and some other cutaneous affections:—Alum reduced to impalpable powder, 30 parts; white precipitate, 1 part. Rub up well together, and place the powder in a bottle, and then add from 90 to 100 parts of glycerine. Shake the bottle until the mixture assumes a creamy