

Dover's powder nightly for five weeks, the dose being gradually increased from one to fifteen grains without any improvement. During the next three weeks he took ten grains of oxide of zinc every night at bed-time, with very little benefit. He was then ordered two five-grain reduced iron pills nightly, and in a week the sweating had almost ceased. The great disadvantages of iron is that in many cases it is not well borne. Too often it increases the cough, occasions headache and heat of skin, and distresses instead of relieving the patient.

VI. *Nitrite of Amyl in Night-sweat.*—I have recently made, at Dr. Ringer's suggestion, some observations on the influence of nitrite of amyl on the night-sweating of phthisis. The patients were seventeen in number, all adults—thirteen men and four women. All stages of the disease were represented; in some cases there was considerable elevation of temperature, while in others the lung mischief was latent. The majority of the patients were seen daily for some weeks, and some were under observation for three months. The medicine was given internally at bed-time, the dose varying from a half to three minims. For convenience of dispensing, a one-in-ten solution in rectified spirit was usually employed, but in some cases the amyl was given in suspension in water or on sugar.

In three out of the seventeen cases no benefit was experienced from the treatment. These patients were all men. One had suffered from profuse perspiration all his life, not only at night, but also in the day-time, and he was covered with moisture on the slightest exertion even in the dead of winter. The amyl was given nightly in minim doses for a fortnight without checking the perspiration in the slightest degree. He had previously been treated unsuccessfully with oxide of zinc, hypodermic injections of atropia, and other drugs. On one occasion he was freely rubbed all over with belladonna liniment till his pupils were fully dilated, but the sweating continued as before. The second was a case of advanced phthisis, in which the amyl was given nightly for a fortnight in doses varying from one to three minims, without benefit; oxide of zinc subsequently failed. In the third unsuccessful case the patient had hemiplegia and tertiary syphilis, in addition to his lung mischief. The amyl was taken in drop-doses for eight nights, and seemed rather to increase than to diminish the amount of perspiration; in this case too oxide of zinc was given without benefit.

In the remaining fourteen cases the treatment was successful. The most striking case was that of a young man who had suffered severely from night-sweating for six weeks. A single dose of the amyl stopped them at once and completely for a fortnight. The perspirations then returned, and a single dose again kept

them in check for a fortnight. For a third time this was tried, and with like result. It may have been a mere coincidence, but it certainly appeared to be the result of the treatment. In the majority of cases the treatment was less successful. Usually on the first night little or no benefit was experienced; on the next night the perspiration was less; and it gradually decreased in severity night by night till at the expiration of a fortnight it had nearly if not wholly ceased, and the patient was able to discontinue the medicine. At the expiration of about a week the perspiration would return, and it would be necessary to give the medicine again. One of these patients had renal disease in addition to the lung mischief, and another had frequent hemoptysis. The others were simple cases of phthisis. Most of them were able to take outdoor exercise, but two or three were confined to bed.

Nitrite of amyl is a good remedy for night-sweats, but for promptness of action is decidedly inferior to atropia and other remedies.

VII. *Local Applications for Night-sweat.*—Dr. Druitt finds that in the night-sweats of phthisis sponging with hot water gives relief, especially if the perspiration begin, as it often does, on one special part of the body by preference, as the chest, hands, or feet. By hot water is meant water as hot as can be borne without pain. It may be used by sponging or immersing, and must be continued till the parts treated are hot, red, and tingling with heat—almost scalded in fact. A good wipe with water at 130° is easily borne; for immersion the heat must be less; but the feelings are the only guide. Dr. Druitt also recommends this mode of treatment when there is a general tendency to perspire to a distressing degree in hot weather, the patient being in good health; and also when there is a tendency to distressing perspiration of some particular part, as the axillæ, hands, feet, etc.

Dr. Robinson Hill recommends sponging the chest with salt solution at bed-time. He finds that in many cases it arrests the night-sweats most completely and satisfactorily.

Sponging the chest and limbs at bed-time with aromatic vinegar and water is also useful, but has its disadvantages. Dr. Elliotson speaks well of a mixture of sulphuric acid and water—a drachm to the pint—as a wash.

The application of belladonna is useful for local sweatings, but when the sweating is general the internal administration of atropia is to be preferred.

AGARICUM IN THE NIGHT-SWEATS OF CONSUMPTIVE PATIENTS.

Professor Peter says, in his lectures on the treatment of tuberculosis (*Bull. Gén. de Thérap.*, March 30, 1879), that agaricum is one of the most efficient