

saved; yet even at this period, the emaciation or defect of nutrition, arrested growth; and pallid dingy skin; proclaims the nature of the disease; and sometimes other forms of it, even now, may be detected. I was lately called on to see one of these cases, considered to be simple cataract, in a child of three years old. The pupil was contracted, and adherent to an opaque lens and capsule, and vision was irreparably destroyed. This occurred when the child was only a few months old, yet on examination I found the tongue studded with small irritable ulcers and clefts, and a soft condylomatous elevation at the anus, which speedily disappeared after the administration of some hydrargyrum cum creta. The treatment of syphilitic inflammation of the eye in infants does not differ from that prescribed for adults, except in degree. Mercury and the local application of extract of atropa belladonna during the existence of the inflammation, and tonics, alteratives, and generous diet, should the disease linger, constitute the principal resources. Of the preparations of mercury the hydrargyrum cum creta appears the most appropriate and convenient, and in acute cases it may, with advantage, be combined, at first, with James' Powder, or other manageable antimonial. Sarsaparilla, iodine, and bark, can be resorted to as auxiliaries if necessary.

GENERAL ERETHISM PRODUCED BY INJURY OF THE MEMBRANA TYMPANI.

By JOSEPH B. COTTMAN, M. D., of Whitehaven, Md. (in a letter to Prof. Dunglison.)

March 28th, 1846.—Mrs. J., on the night of the 28th, while picking her ear with a knitting needle, accidentally passed it in too far, so as to injure the membrana tympani; the effect of the injury was instantaneous; she seized hold of the nearest object to prevent her from falling from the chair, and called for assistance. With some difficulty she was carried to an adjoining room in a state of insensibility; being placed on a bed, she recovered her reason sufficiently in a little while to tell what had happened to her. *State at this time.*—Expression wild, pupils very much dilated, face flushed, the least motion of the head seemed to give the most excruciating pain; she would scream aloud; tetanic twitching of the muscles of the arm;—pulse strong, full and bounding; violent throbbing of the carotids. In the course of fifteen or twenty minutes, this state of things was succeeded by general syncope; her face would become blanched, her extremities cold, long and laboured respiration, with occasional sighing; this would continue for half an hour or more, before she could be aroused; when aroused, her conversation was incoherent, her face flushed, pupils preternaturally dilated, violent sick stomach, with occasional vomiting; rigors; extremities cold. This state of things continued alternately from 10 o'clock at night until 3 o'clock in the morning, when she fell asleep. Slept about three hours.

March 29th, 6 o'clock, A. M.—Still complained of pain in her head: the least motion aggravated it; said that her mind was very much confused, that she could not think; face flushed; pupils dilated; tetanic twitching of the muscles of the extremities; occasional flushes of heat and cold as she described it; pulse full, strong and corded; conversation at times incoherent, I tied up her arm, and took about a quart of blood with decided benefit; her pulse became natural; her mind clearer; talked more rationally; said that her head felt better, that she could hear a little in the injured ear. Up to this time she had not heard at all in that ear from the time of the accident. She felt so much better that she desired her female attendants to take her dress off; in attempting to do so she was placed in an upright position, this produced syncope, which continued for nearly an hour; during this time her breathing was stertorous and laboured; her extremities cold; occasional twitching of the muscles of the arm; pulse very slow and feeble; it was with the utmost difficulty that she could be aroused, and when aroused complained of being very chilly; violent sick stomach and a constant disposition to vomit. In the afternoon, two small blisters were applied behind the ears; these drew well, and produced a general amelioration of all her bad symptoms; she fell into a quiet sleep at night, and slept well until morning.

March 30th, 6 o'clock, A. M.—On awaking in the morning she had considerable fever; restless; thirst urgent; nausea with a disposition to vomit; about twelve o'clock the fever passed off, and she said she felt much better; could turn in bed without producing any unpleasant feeling about her head; mind clearer; talked more rationally; expression better; thought she could hear better. In the afternoon she fell asleep, and slept till near night; at this time I left her; I saw her again about 9 o'clock, P. M.; at that time she was decidedly better than she had been; expression natural; talked rationally; says she is entirely free from pain.

March 31st, 6 o'clock, A. M.—Did not sleep well last night; return of fever, restlessness; thirst very urgent; craves ice; complaints of a *roaring* in the injured ear like distant thunder; says that she sometimes loses her senses; cephalalgia very great, confined to the forehead; fever passed off about 10 o'clock, when she fell asleep; slept about an hour with decided benefit; says she always feels better after sleeping. In the afternoon I gave her eight grains of blue mass.

April 1st, 6 o'clock, A. M.—Slept well; fever very slight; a general improvement in her situation; slight *roaring* in the injured ear; blue mass has not operated; took half an ounce of calcined magnesia; this produced a gentle action on the bowels. From this time, she gradually convalesced without a return of any of her unpleasant symptoms, and is now perfectly restored.—*Medical Examiner.*

TREATMENT OF LEAD COLIC.

During the three years that I was with M. Gendrin, I saw a vast number of cases of lead colic; we had, indeed, nearly always two or three men thus affected in our wards, sent from the carbonate of lead manufactory at Clichy. All of these cases were treated with sulphuric acid, and I do not recollect having seen one in which the disease proved refractory to the treatment adopted,—a case or two of confirmed chronic paralysis excepted. The duration of the treatment, as far as I can collect from my notes, was about three days in slight cases, and six or seven in severe ones. The sulphuric acid was given, largely diluted with water (forty-four drops to a pint of water); two or three pints being administered in the twenty-four hours. The amount of pure, strong acid taken in that time was, therefore, from one drachm and a half to two drachms. Sometimes the sulphuric lemonade, as it was familiarly called, was vomited as soon as ingested. Still when this was the case, the patient was made to persevere in its use, and the stomach soon became accustomed to the acid, and retained it. When it was retained, the abdominal pains generally began to diminish after the first, second or third day, the constipation soon giving way naturally, after they had become less intense. In all these instances, not a grain of any kind of medicine was given besides the sulphuric acid, nor was an enema used, the sulphuric acid being the only medicinal agent resorted to, if we except baths.

At the commencement of the treatment, a sulphur bath was given to the patient, the result of which was, that the sulphur, combining with the particles of lead that were on the skin, formed a black sulphuret. The amount of lead, which is thus discovered to encrust, as it were, the skin of those who have worked at preparations of lead, is nearly incredible. I have often seen men go into the sulphur bath quite white, and come out nearly as black as negroes. The lead lying on the skin having been thus made visible to the naked eye, the patients were supplied with a harsh brush and half a pound of soft soap, and made to scrub themselves daily in a warm bath, until all the black sulphuret had been brushed off. The sulphur bath was then repeated, the sulphuret of lead brought out, brushed off, and the process renewed, until it no longer rendered visible any trace of lead.

This precaution is indispensable with all who labor under saturnine disease, if we wish to ensure patients against relapse. While at the hospitals of La Pitié and Saint Louis, I have repeatedly had patients under my care with lead colic, who had been discharged as cured from other hospitals a few weeks previously. The sulphur bath, which exhibited a thick coating of lead on the skin, explained at once the cause of the relapse. Indeed, the presence of this coating of lead on the surface of the body is, no doubt, the principle cause of the relapses which are mentioned by authors as occurring so often in these diseases. The lead which thus lies on the surface is gradually absorbed, and, at last, poisoning having