

again refer), among them to the vaso motor; an action which is reversed by poisonous doses. That it has also a local action on the blood-vessels I think highly probable, but am unable to define in terms of physiology what that action is. My belief in the existence of such a property, however, led me to try the drug in a case of pleurisy with effusion, in the hope of favoring absorption; after the manner in which mercury used to be prescribed. The result was successful: how far it was due to the treatment cannot with certainty be pronounced. :—

H. C., aged fourteen, walked to Mortlake from Paddington to see the Oxford and Cambridge boat-race; and, arrived there, while heated sat down upon the grass. On the way home he felt chilly and giddy and sick; the same evening he had rigors, and a cough appeared. On April 2nd he was brought to me at the Western General Dispensary, and was found to have an effusion in the right pleural cavity to the level of the nipple. His heart was displaced one inch to the left. The temperature was $102^{\circ}.4$. The pulse beat 130 to the minute. I ordered mustard poultices to the right side, and a draught containing 15 ms. of antimonial wine, that is 1-16 gr. of tartar emetic, and 60 grs. of sulphate of magnesia in an ounce of spearmint water three times a day. He was also to take a teaspoonful of the dispensary linctus when the cough was troublesome; to have low diet, and to stay in bed. On April 4th I visited him at his home. I found him much easier, the cough much less, the temperature 101° ; the bowels were inclined to be loose. Absence of appetite was the chief thing complained of. This I have noticed in nearly every case in which I have given antimony for a day or so. It is not by the patient's description, nausea, nor the anorexy of fever, but a "feeling of not being ready for the meal when it arrives." Being a spoilt child, he had not allowed his mother to keep on the poultices, and they produced little effect, not reddening the skin. The mixture was continued in half the dose. On the 8th he professed himself quite well. His heart had receded to its normal situation. The area of dulness to percussion had diminished by one inch. Vocal vibration was restored nearly equal to that of the healthy side. Moist râles were heard over base of right lung. He had refused to stay in bed, and had made himself sick on raw apples; the consequent stomach-ache was his sole complaint. I will not detail the subsequent progress of the case; his recovery was complete and rapid. Ten days afterward there remained of the effusion no sign but a flatness of the percussion note, and rhonchi with an occasional friction sound over the affected area. He continued on the same medicine throughout.

Now, though an advocate for the removal by aspiration of the pleural effusions, whenever practicable, I find that it is often not possible to persuade those who are treated at their own homes to

submit to the operation: and in such cases any drug which is reputed to promote absorption should receive a trial. The impression left on my mind by this case is that the antimony did act, as mercury is reputed to act, as an absorbent, and at my next opportunity I will repeat the trial.

Whilst following the practice of the Paris hospitals, I several times witnessed good results from a practice of M. Jaccoud's at the Hopital de la Pitié. In cases of serous inflammation complicating rheumatic fever, where he apprehends effusion, he prescribes 30 centigrammes of tartar emetic in 100 grammes of julep, a tablespoonful every hour until the whole has been taken. This produces vomiting and diarrhæa, which cease towards evening. Then the patient receives three grammes (I may misstate the quantity) of extract of cinchona in a cordial. In one case, the subject of a clinical lecture, as a result of this treatment, an effusion had disappeared by the next day. On the day after it reappeared, and the evening temperature rose to 39.4° C. The treatment was repeated with a dose of only 20 centigrammes of tartar emetic, with relief. It was finally necessary in this case to repeat the treatment four successive times, always with a day's interval between each. This is M. Jaccoud's rule: not to trust the benefit obtained on the first day, unless the following morning and evening temperatures be normal. If not, the prescription is repeated on the third day with a diminished dose of tartar emetic; and when the symptoms are subdued, the previous treatment of the joint affection is resumed.

Of thirteen cases of acute rheumatism, complicated with effusions into the cavities of the chest or meninges, and treated with salicylate of soda, in the course of the year 1877, three died. In 1882, of 23 cases similarly complicated, treated, as is above described, he lost one. A decidedly good result. It is generally supposed in England that the treatment of medical cases at least, in France is nihilistic and inefficient; but in dangerous crises it is as energetic or more so than ours, and on the whole justified by the result. I left Paris with more faith in antiphlogistic remedies than I possessed when I went there. It is the general custom in England to leave effusion in the serous cavities, complicating rheumatic fever, alone; some few blisters or abstraction of blood. Aspiration is generally avoided, I believe. Therefore I think this practice of M. Jaccoud should be recorded in the list of remedies.

Though vomiting and purging take the principal part in this treatment, an impression doubtless is also made on the system by the antimony absorbed, by which the course of the disease is permanently modified, a modification which would not be effected by any simply vomito-purgative drug. I cannot render my meaning more plain than by relating the following case:

On February 16th last I was asked by the gentleman who was at that time acting as house surgeon to the Western General Dispensary to see I