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HOOPING COUGH.

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It has been a subject of observation in Medical Journals, from time to time, that no specific has yet been discovered which can be relied upon to remove this troublesome disease. That Hooping Cough is seldom dangerous, and still more seldom fatal, has, perhaps, led to less anxiety in its treatment than in cases of more formidable ailments. Yet although when it occurs in the summer months, medical aid is seldom sought, as parents find that it runs its course in six or eight weeks, and no obvious evil consequences result; yet when it commences at the beginning or during the course of the winter, it will continue, if not removed by medical treatment, until the return of warm weather, and will become complicated with Bronchitis or Pneumonia, if the patient is exposed to cold or wet, and lead in such instances to fatal results; especially as parents, knowing the child has a cough already, may not notice its aggravation, or the feverish symptoms accompanying it, until the inflammatory adjuncts have reached a dangerous stage.

It is true there is another complication in very young children, which may occur at any season of the year; namely, convulsions, which are often formidable, as whatever treatment may be resorted to for their immediate relief, they are liable to recur whenever the paroxysms of cough are repeated.

It is therefore of some importance to make known to the Profession any drugs which can be relied on as a specific in this disease. Nearly forty years ago, I read an article in a French Medical Journal, recommending the Sulphuret of Potash as an effective remedy in Hooping

Cough. Being in practice then in London, England, and an epidemic invasion of the disease occurring in the populous parish of Marylebone, I had the opportunity of administering it in fifty cases, of which I kept notes, and in two only did it fail to afford relief. In a large proportion the paroxysms of cough were generally diminished at the end of ten days, and in the remainder, after the medicine had been used for a fortnight, so much diminished both in frequency and force, as to render it unnecessary to continue any treatment.

During the course of my professional life in Canada, now thirty-four years, I have prescribed it in a great number of cases with such uniform success that I use no other remedy, except two or three doses of ipecachuana, as emetics, if consulted at the commencement of the disease, and if there is any accompanying fever.

The mode of administration I have adopted is to dissolve it in a mixture of syrup and distilled or rain water, in the proportion of one of the former to three parts of the latter, (hard water which sometimes contains sulphuric acid partially decomposing it,) the dose being one grain for each year up to four years of age, and after that half a grain additional, for each year; the smaller doses being administered in a teaspoonful of fluid, and the larger more diluted, in proportion to the quantity of the salt in each dose.

Its beneficial effects are not perceived for five days, when the intervals between the paroxysms of cough become longer, and after that their violence diminishes from day to day, until at the end of ten or fourteen days it is seldom necessary to pursue the treatment further.

As the drug easily spoils by keeping, it is important to have it fresh. If it dissolves perfectly in the syrup and water, and the mixture is of a greenish colour, it may be relied on; but if there is any sediment, it has been decomposed by exposure to air, and becomes a sulphate. I have been induced to bring this remedy before the