

RHEUMATIC ARTHRITIS.

Clinique of Dr. Lyons, at the Richmond Hospital, Dublin.

C. D., an unmarried female domestic servant, aged 28, was eight days an intern patient at the Whitworth Hospital at the date of this report (March 6th), and had been four days ill previously to her admission. Dr. Lyons considered her case to be one of rheumatic arthritis. At the date of this report her pulse was quiet; and the disease, which had been found to affect the wrists, knees, ankles, shoulders, and hips, had entirely subsided. The mode of treatment adopted by Dr. Lyons in this case is worthy of note; not because of any originality in the means employed, which are mostly well-known and popular remedies, but in their combination, and as illustrating the rationale of a plan at once useful and easy of application.

In the first instance the patient was encased in a flannel jacket with the view of keeping up an uniform temperature in the body, and with the same object the sheets were removed from the bed, and the patient was made to lie literally "between the blankets."

In the next place the affected joints were poulticed with a mash of chamomile flowers and poppy heads.

In the third place she took a quarter of a grain of opium every four hours; and, at the same time, she was ordered a combination of three salts of potass, half an ounce of the bicarbonate, and two drachms each of the nitrate and acetate, in seven ounces of infusion of calumba, and an ounce of tincture of gentian; half an ounce of this mixture every three hours.

The rationale of this treatment may be shortly explained thus: the bicarbonate saturates the uric acid, and makes a soluble salt, which is washed out of the system through the kidneys under the stimulus of the acetate and nitrate. The warm poultices give immediate and permanent ease, and retain the deposit in the joints until it is taken up in the soluble form, thus preventing any repellant action which, by metastasis, would tend to drive the inflammation to the heart. The opium procures sleep, and gives great relief from pain, the patients passing through the disease with little or no suffering.

This plan has been extensively used by Dr. Lyons, and with the effect of speedy relief to the sufferings of the patients so treated; and also with the important effect of a very large proportionate immunity as regards the principal organ, the heart, less than one in twenty of such cases having presented cardiac complications. The subject of the present report, it may be further stated, got complete and permanent relief in six days after admission to hospital.—*Medical Press and Circular.*