

potent remedy by neuralgic persons. It should not, generally speaking, be taken out of the hands of the medical attendant, and it should be used avowedly as a palliative on special occasions only, not at regular intervals. I need scarcely say that hypodermic morphia often cures neuralgia, and to this end may well be used for a few days consecutively, or several times a week. Still, the medical man must assuredly bear in mind that, if he does not cure the ailment, he is in danger of establishing a habit both of intoxication and of the neuralgia itself. With him the responsibility must rest of drawing the line between its use as a curative means and its use as an habitual palliative and stimulant. The same difficulties which have limited my experience of the continuous galvanic current in gastralgia, apply with even more force to ovaralgia, in which complaint I have indeed never made a trial of it. Fortunately, so far as a few cases can prove, we seem to have in quinine, liberally given, an almost specific remedy. It may not act more decidedly in ovaralgia than it does in trigeminal tic, but, curiously enough, it is at least equally valuable. In iron and arsenic then, as chronic remedies, and in quinine or hypodermic morphia, as immediate remedies, we may find a tolerably sure cure.—*Liverpool and Manchester Med. Reports.*

TREATMENT OF ACNE.

By H. D. BULKLEY, M.D.

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An elaborate paper on Acne, read by Dr. Bulkley at the New York Academy of Medicine, and followed by an interesting discussion, contains some observations on the treatment of this troublesome affection that may interest our readers.

Dr. Bulkley, differing strongly from the local pathology of the Germans, and believing in the internal origin of the disease in the great majority of cases, relies most on constitutional remedies, together with attention to diet and exercise. Constipation has in most cases to be combated, but not by ordinary purgatives, the abuse of which has brought discredit on their employment in the treatment of acne. Attention should be paid to diet, exercise and regularity in answering the calls of nature; and, when medicine is required, most success is derived from the employment of minute doses of aloes, combined with iron, given repeatedly after meals, and gradually diminished as the required effect is produced. He also prescribes a pill containing blue pill and compound extract of colocynth, of each two and a half grains, and one quarter of a grain of ipecacuanha, giving two such on alternate nights for awhile, and following them by Kissengen water. The dyspepsia which is so often present is usually of the acid variety, and much benefited by restriction in the use of starchy and saccharine substances, and of ale, beer, and wine, as also chocolate, fried substances, pastry, and coffee and tea in excess. When a stimulant is required, whisky or brandy should be preferred to ales and wine. Exercise in the open air is

of very great importance, and neglect of it may be one reason why women are more liable to the disease than men. Dr. Bulkley has seen many cases injured by arsenic where this has been given in the early stages of acne; but he regards the remedy as serviceable later, when the eruption is drier and less inflamed, as a tonic having a special action on the skin. He has found acetate of potass serviceable in many cases, in doses of from fifteen to thirty grains, given in a considerable quantity of water between meals. It will not, however, effect a cure, tonics being afterwards required. Dilute nitric and phosphoric acids, with vegetable bitters, have also yielded good results, as also Kissengen water in pint doses before breakfast, the beneficial effects depending not upon its purgative principles, but upon its alkaline properties. Cod-liver oil, with iodide of iron, is useful in scrofulous subjects, and a mild mercurial course may be resorted to when there is suspicion of syphilis. Dr. Bulkley, although attaching by far the most importance to general means, finds that local means will hasten the cure, and the best of these is a lotion composed of sulphuret of potash and sulphate of zinc, of each a drachm to four ounces of rose water. He has used collodion in order to contract the capillaries in acne rosacea, but without any permanent effect; and he has laid open the veins in this affection with some good results. One drachm of iodide of lead to one ounce of stramonium ointment has been of use in reducing thickening in indurated acne, and citrine ointment, diluted three times, has been of service in acne rosacea. Juniper and tar soap is of value when there is not much inflammation; but bichloride of mercury has not justified the frequent use that is made of it.

Dr. Weisse, after the correction of the constipation and dyspepsia attendant upon the disease, gives a decided preference to local treatment. After a thorough trial of the internal use of arsenic, he is convinced of its inefficiency. Iron, and particularly the iodide, he has found useful in scrofulo-anæmic patients. He is able to testify to the success of Gubler's treatment by glycerine, and he has found with him that the subjects of this disease usually exclude fats of all kinds from their food. He therefore gives from half a pint to a pint of cream daily, as also almond or olive oil, and he explains the successful use of cod-liver oil by the same theory. In tropical treatment he regards as the first essential the careful emptying of the follicles of their contents, which may be done by a fine needle and well-directed pinching of the orifices. Next, inflammation should be allayed by warm water rendered milky by kneading a bag of bran in it, and used as a douche for ten or fifteen minutes two or three times a day. After trying all the applications that have been recommended, he gives the preference to those which are not irritating. Chronic papular and tubercular lesions, however, require nitrate of silver or more powerful escharotics. For the last two years Dr. Weisse has used with advantage an ointment composed of suet carefully worked up and scented, and a powder of equal parts of subnitrate of bismuth and prepared chalk. Before going to bed the patient