

the diagnosis, what means are we to adopt to relieve the symptoms? The treatment in these cases is obvious and simple. First and most important, then, is a free counter-irritation; but you must apply your counter-irritation carefully, and consider what form of counter-irritant will be best suited to the case. Blisters would be improper, because cantharidine, which is the active principle of the blister, is a direct irritant to the mucous membrane of the bladder, and would tend, therefore, rather to increase the distress. Turpentine must not be employed either, because it irritates the kidneys, and the irritation is liable to be propagated to the bladder. Mustard is the most effectual counter-irritant which we can use in these cases, and has not the disadvantage of the former remedies. Strong ammonia may likewise be used as a counter-irritant. Our next consideration must be to relieve pain, which in many cases is a most urgent symptom, and we should endeavour to effect this in the speediest and safest manner possible. If the affection be of the first form, where pus is generated, the best course to pursue is to give an opiate in some way or other. This may be done by the endermic method, by rubbing in a strong opiate liniment over the region of the bladder. Or, what is much better, and more certain in its action, the opium may be given in the form of an enema injected into the rectum. About half a drachm of laudanum, mixed with a small quantity of decoction of starch, of which not more than an ounce and a half, or two ounces, should be employed, may be gently injected into the rectum, and you will find that it acts as a sort of warm poultice, containing opium, to the bladder; and in this way all kinds of irritability of this organ may be relieved. The irritable state of the bladder caused by cantharidine (strangury) is effectually relieved in the same way, and gouty inflammation is benefited in like manner. The action of cantharidine, indeed, forms a pretty good illustration of the manner in which we may suppose the gouty poison to cause the vesical irritability, and they may both be relieved in a similar manner. If the patient is not quite relieved after the administration of the first enema, you need not be afraid to give a second, provided that you are sure he exhibits no peculiar idiosyncrasy with respect to opium. In many cases of this kind you may give opium also with advantage by the mouth, and especially in combination with sudorifics.

With reference to the treatment of all cases of gout, where the disease is apt to attack internal organs, I may give you this practical hint, and I strongly advise you to bear it in mind whenever you may be called upon to treat gout of this nature. It is this, that these cases are of an asthenic character, and do not bear depletory measures; so that if you find a patient labouring under gout of the stomach, or gout affecting the bladder, you must not think of applying leeches, and employing the treatment which would be applicable to other forms of inflammation of these organs; for the abstraction of even so small a quantity of blood as would be taken by the application of a few leeches might do the patient serious mischief, and cause prostration from which he might never rally. On this point Sir Benjamin Brodie has expressed a similar opinion; for he lays it down, that antiphlogistic treatment is inapplicable to that particular form of inflammation of the bladder which is of a gouty origin. With regard to the exhibition of colchicum, I am of opinion, that, in many cases, it is inadmissible, and, in all; it should be given with great caution and circumspection; for this so-called specific is certainly very depressing in its influence, and therefore unsuitable to cases which partake of the asthenic character.

The treatment which, in my experience, has been most beneficial for gout, when it attacks any of the hollow viscera, consists in employing free counter-irritation—keeping up a moderate action of the bowel—paying attention to the functions of the skin, and promoting the action of this great secreting surface by the exhibition of sudorifics. Provided the mine be not alkaline, the administration of alkalis will be found of service, and opium is employed with great advantage for allaying the irritability of the affected organ, which is often productive of great distress to the patient.

As I have before hinted, there is much resemblance between the gouty