

"that the results of empirical and popular observation will be transcended and eclipsed by the positive results of rational pathology; that diseases will presently yield to philosophical investigation what they have refused to blundering quackery; and that within the lifetime of many here, there will be specific treatment of each diathesis, founded on an exact knowledge of the physiological laws of its manifestation." (*General Pathology*, p. 15).

When we inquire what is the condition of the blood in the hæmorrhagic diathesis, we find that it coagulates with difficulty, that it has a soft clot, that it is not buffed, that it shows a diminished proportion of fibrine; and that, along with this depraved state of the blood, there is a corresponding abnormal delicacy of structure in the capillaries and minute vessels, which are easily torn, and are wanting in contractile power and tonicity.

In this condition, the slightest cut or scratch may lead to excessive hæmorrhage; a trifling contusion to extensive extravasation under the skin. For this dyscrasia, an antidote is needed that shall increase the fibrin of the blood, add to its plasticity and chemo-vital constituents, and that shall also tend to restore the contractile power of the capillaries and smaller vessels. That chlorate of potash, whether alone or in combination with a soluble salt of iron, is possessed of these properties, and has the power of controlling the various manifestations of the hæmorrhagic diathesis of the human system, an experience extending over more than twenty years has thoroughly convinced me. To detail at length the evidence upon which this conviction, is founded is forbidden by the space at my disposal. It shall be my duty, however, to report some examples of the salutary influence of this remedy in several of the most important lesions of this group; and my first illustration shall be drawn from a case of hæmorrhage from the bowels.

On December 18th, 1867, F. C., a constable, aged 27, of spare habit, residing at Boyne Bridge, Belfast, after returning at night from the music hall, found his boots full of blood, the source of which he traced to the rectum; next day he had medical advice, and remained under the care of several experienced practitioners in hospital till February 14th following, without receiving any benefit. He then sent for me. On examination I could not discover any sign of fissure or hæmorrhoids, the blood seeming to flow from a congested state of the mucous membrane of the rectum. I prescribed rest, and a mixture composed of one ounce of chlorate of potash and twenty ounces of water; dose, one ounce three times daily. After the first day he began to improve, and on the third every trace of the disease had disappeared. With the exception of a slight return after an interval of two years, he has been quite free ever since, one or two doses of the mixture having sufficed to relieve him. I have had occasion to see him officially very often since that time. He is now a strong, robust

man, and he attributes the change in his constitution to the use of the mixture, which he persevered with for a time.

*Hæmophilia: Epistaxis.*—A. B., aged 18, tall, of florid complexion, engaged in a large concern near Belfast, established for the manufacture of the textile fabrics for which that town is remarkable, suffered so much from a continual dropping of blood from the nose, caused by dust from the flax, that he feared he should have to relinquish the business. His family history is remarkable, his father having been subject to many and severe attacks of epistaxis, sometimes persisting, in despite treatment, for a month at a time. Another member of the family suffered in the same way after the extraction of a tooth; a wound on the skin, as by shaving, giving rise to most troublesome bleeding. Having been asked by a friend, in the end of 1874, to prescribe, *in absentia*, I ordered a mixture, which was forwarded to him, containing, as in the previous case, an ounce of the chlorate dissolved in twenty of water, but with the addition of one drachm of the tinctura ferri perchloridi; dose as above. A fortnight after, the young man called to thank me for his cure. Nearly five years have since elapsed without a relapse, save on one occasion, when, having lost a train, he ran a distance of two or three miles, when a slight bleeding occurred, which was staunch by his pocket handkerchief.

*Hæmaturia Renalis.*—W. McN., aged 25, a saddler by trade, living at Albert Bridge Road, Belfast, of very delicate constitution and deformed spine, and subject to lumbar pains, consulted me in July, 1863, for a very profuse discharge of bloody urine, which had troubled him for many months, and for which he had been treated ineffectually by several medical men. The blood came in large quantities, mixed, but not suspended, in the urine, apparently from the kidney; the bladder was healthy and free from calculus, having been carefully sounded by my friend Dr. Murney. I tried for a time a number of styptics, etc., in vain; among the rest the tincture of iron; when on recurring to my favorite remedy, and joining to the iron the chlorate of potash in the usual dose, immediate relief was the result. For a period of twelve years the man was subject to periodical returns of the affection, perhaps twice in the year. His custom was to have the prescription renewed, generally without reference to me and with the same happy result; he was thus enabled to continue at his trade, and to assist his friends, until the month of August, 1875, when, having taken a long drive upon a rough road the hæmorrhage recurred with great violence, and the attack terminated fatally in ten days. I had not the opportunity of post-mortem examination.

*Purpura Hæmorrhagica.*—I was requested by some charitable ladies, in the summer of 1865, to visit a factory worker named Hagan, who lived at 58 Mary street, Falls Road. She had been confined to bed for thirteen weeks, and been carefully attended by the dispensary doctor of her own and