

## JAUNDICE AND ITS TREATMENT.

A DISORDER, for the relief of which medical men are very often consulted, is what is ordinarily known as "jaundice," a complaint which, to the sufferer, is particularly distressing, and may result, if left unrelieved, in chronic hepatic disease. A patient, probably a male of about thirty years of age, comes with the history that he has been sick for ten days or so. He has a severe cough and complains of having been sick at the stomach. There is no swelling about the face or feet; no pain; bowels are regular, and tongue heavily coated. Upon examination, we find dulness marked just below the ribs on the right side, extending downward fully three inches, nearly to the umbilicus. Farther round to the side we get the normal resonance. At the point of most marked dulness we can easily map out a distinct mass, which corresponds to the location of the gall-bladder. If we examine a sample of urine from this case, we will find distinct evidences of containing a large amount of bile. You will observe a peculiar color and also a characteristic foam on top, both of which strongly indicate the presence of bile. When bile is eliminated through the kidneys, more or less albumen will always be found in the urine; so that albumen in the urine is at once presumptive evidence that there is something the matter with the kidneys; but it is not sufficient, you must have the other corroborative tests. Not only is the skin all over the body quite yellow, but the sclera is also tinged the same color; and if the patient be a negro, the pigment often appears as spots under the white sclera. The tongue is big and flabby, filling the whole buccal cavity. The patient evidently has a catarrhal condition of the common duct, blocking it up to a greater or less extent, and causing a reabsorption of the bile into the blood, giving him catarrhal jaundice. The albumen found in the urine is probably caused by irritation resulting from the presence of bile—something which frequently happens. It is a peculiar thing, but is a fact all the same, that a patient under these circumstances frequently complains but little. Most cases of this kind follow an attack of some dyspeptic trouble, some imprudence in eating or drinking. They generally have a sick stomach, some nausea, some constipation. After a while they have an uneasy sensation in the region of the liver and stomach; and a few days later follow the symptoms described above. If such could be examined, it would be found that this man's feces were clay-colored. In order to discover exactly whether the foam or the color in the urine is due to the presence of bile, add a few drops of strong nitric acid and you will observe, if bile be present, a play of colors—green, blue, red and yellow. Another and possibly a still more commonly used test is to put a little urine in a test tube, and pour down upon it a watery solution of iodine, and if bile is present a green ring will form at the junction of the two fluids. As to the