

The general practitioner is often asked to relieve cases of this nature in girls who would never submit to an examination or operation, preferring rather to suffer pain indefinitely than the shame of a physical investigation into the nature of their trouble. In such cases the physician is forced to try the effect of medicinal agents, groping, it may be, in the dark, before insisting upon an examination. Such being the case, it is well to learn what remedies have been found to be of occasional service in relieving symptoms of this nature which are not dependent upon actual organic disease.

In a very practical paper, read before the Connecticut Medical Society, at its annual meeting in 1888, Dr. Gideon C. Segur, of Hartford, presents a general review of the subject, giving the results of his own experience, and quoting the opinions of several prominent gynecologists whom he has consulted. A brief *résumé* of these opinions is all that can be presented here, the reader who may desire a more extended presentation of the subject being referred to the original paper.

Amenorrhœa.—For this condition most of the authorities consulted recommended general tonics, iron, arsenic, and cod-liver oil. Permanganate of potassium, which was at one time so strongly recommended, does not seem to be in much favor, the objection to it being that it is too irritating to the stomach. Manganese was advised by some, and this is the remedy that the author has found to give the most satisfactory results. Most of the salts of this drug, however, cause so much gastric irritation that they cannot be used in most cases, but the binoxide seems to be an exception in this respect, Dr. Segur having used it in many cases with the happiest results, and without seeing any disagreeable effects caused by it. A disagreeable feature of this remedy, in Dr. Mundé's experience, though apparently not in the author's, was its unreliability. It might afford relief at one time, and yet at another, even in the same case, and seemingly under the same conditions, it would fail utterly to bring on the menstrual flow. The lactate of manganese is also free from the irritating action upon the stomach that most of the other salts of the drug exert. Manganese has the reputation of being an abortifacient, hence some caution is necessary in its use as an emmenagogue. But the maximum dose employed by the author is six grains a day, and this is far below that which has been used to produce abortion.

Dysmenorrhœa.—The opinions of the authorities consulted by the author concerning this symptom and its relief were most varied. Some thought no benefit could be obtained by any but operative measures, while others spoke hopefully of many remedies. Among those which seemed to have given most satisfaction to the writers were *pulsatilla* in three to five-drop doses three times a day; *cannabis indica*, *viburnum*, *camphor*, *belladonna*,

and *antipyrine*. Dr. Segur found manganese to render good service in these cases also, in many instances. The binoxide was used in doses of six grains per diem. The application of heat, by means of the sitz bath, or douche, was a useful adjuvant to the internal medication.

Menorrhagia.—For this condition the most efficient remedies were found to be ergot, hydrastis, digitalis, sulphuric acid, fluid extract of gossypium, and gallic acid.

It is rather strange to find such a want of unanimity in the recommendations of these different authorities concerning the most efficacious medicinal agents for the relief of menstrual disorders. It is rather discouraging, also, as the number of remedies vaunted as useful in any particular trouble is generally an inverse proportion to its amenability to treatment. Yet, notwithstanding the discouragements which those who attempt to treat menstrual disorders by drugs often encounter, the physician is many times powerless to treat them in any other way. Dr. Segur has, therefore, rendered good service in collecting the opinions of so many experienced gynecologists, and in giving the results of his own efforts to relieve sufferers of this class, and we hope that the paper will be useful to many who may perhaps be able occasionally to cure some of these disorders by one or other of the remedies mentioned by the author.—*Med. Rec.*

TUBERCULAR MENINGITIS CURED WITH IODOFORM OINTMENT.

Five cases of this disease were subjected to treatment of the kind mentioned in the title of the author's paper, and with gratifying results. Whatever errors there may have been in diagnosis, the author thinks it hardly possible that he could have erred in all five cases, though he admits that a differential diagnosis between tubercular meningitis and the less grave variety, during life, is very difficult. In all of the cases reported, the plan of treatment consisted in first shaving the hairy scalp and then rubbing in upon the skin a quantity of ointment composed of one part iodoform to five of vaseline, the head being then covered with a tarlatan hood with an opening from the face. At each daily friction two grams of this ointment were used, and the treatment was continued from nine to thirty-two days. Moleschott first advised the use of iodoform for internal diseases in 1878, and he successfully treated three out of five cases of tubercular meningitis by applications of iodoform collodion to the scalp. Nillscez and Souders have also each reported a successful case of this disease treated in the same manner.

The author offers the following suggestions based upon his experience in this connection:

1. Iodoform which does not contain less than