

Progress of Science.

MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

CLINIC OF DR. F. W. CAMPBELL.

Several patients with well defined epilepsy lately presented themselves. They were all treated with drop doses of a one per cent. solution of nitro-glycerine, taken three times a day in a teaspoonful of water. A 40-grain dose of bromide of potash, with 15 grains of chloral, was given in an ounce of water at bed-time. In all the cases the results were most satisfactory, the attacks being at once markedly reduced in frequency and severity. Dr. Campbell thinks that upon the whole, the treatment of epilepsy by nitro-glycerine gives better results than does any other.

Several cases of cardiac dropsy having presented themselves, Dr. Campbell stated that, as a rule, the accumulation of fluid began in the lower extremities. That when it first presented in the abdomen it was generally due to disease of the liver, and that when the dropsy was general it was due in most cases to disease of the kidneys. One case of cardiac dropsy was treated with large doses of liquor ammonia acetatis and infusion of digitalis, and the dropsy entirely disappeared. Dr. Campbell considers quinine almost a specific for whooping cough. He gives it in solution and insists on the absence of syrup in the mixture, and that anything of a syrupy or sweet character must not be given for at least half an hour after the taking of the quinine. To a child a year old he gives a grain every two or three hours. The cough is reflex, and is due to the micrococci adhering to the back of the throat. The quinine stimulates the glands there to pour out a large amount of secretion, and the spores are thus removed. The majority of cases can be perfectly cured in a month.

A severe case of asthma in a rheumatic patient was speedily relieved by 10 grains of iodide of potash every four hours.

The changeful weather of the spring brought to the clinic several cases of severe bronchitis in very young children. They were treated with vin. antimoniales in small doses, combined with liquor ammonia acetatis and the application of compresses to the front and back of the chest. Dr. Campbell remarked that mothers as a rule objected to the application of mustard to young children, but when they saw the great benefit which followed its employment their objections vanished. To a child under two years his rule was to make the sinapism of two parts of flour and one of mustard, and allow the first one to remain on four minutes, subsequent ones about two minutes. They should be applied night and morning for at least three days. After two

years of age he used equal parts of mustard and flour, and increased the length of its application a minute.

A case of taenia solium or tape worms in a woman aged 48 years and of a full habit of body was successfully treated by an emulsion of the Canadian pumpkin seed. Three ounces of the seed was bruised and mixed with 10 ounces of water, and allowed to stand a few hours. It was then passed through coarse muslin and the whole taken in three doses an hour apart, the patient having had previously a dose of sulphate of magnesia and lived for twenty-four hours on milk. The patient had several times previously been treated by male fern, but the head did not come away. The whole worm came away after taking the pumpkin seed. The improvement of the patient was marked.

Several children presented, who were irritable and feverish from teething. Dr. Campbell said that the relief in such cases was often most marked after scarification of the gum, but before using the gum lancet one should be well satisfied that the advancing tooth will fully present by the cut gum receding. If this does not occur the gum heals over and the cicatrix makes it more difficult for the tooth to force itself through. A solution of twenty grains of bromide of potash to the ounce of water, applied over the swollen gum, often gives great relief. Teething children should be closely watched, for brain symptoms often develop in them, especially when there is a tubercular history.

Dr. Campbell has repeatedly drawn the attention of the class to what he terms "the physiognomy of disease. Its recognition can only be acquired by practice. Phthisical patients, he says, have large eyes, often sunk deeply in the orbits, prominent malar processes, and ears standing well out from the head, face elongated and nose somewhat pinched. The asthmatic face is swollen and rounded without being œdematous, the eyes prominent and inclined to be brilliant. In Bright's disease the face is puffy, and the capillaries distended.

Quite a number of cases of myalgia or myodynia have presented of late. The chief and in fact the only symptoms was pain on movement. It is often miscalled muscular rheumatism, for it has not any essential relation to the rheumatic diathesis. It is in truth a disease of nutrition, pain produced in a muscle compelled to work when it should be at rest. The most common cases are overwork, and as a familiar illustration of such cases Dr. Campbell mentioned the pain in the adductors of the thighs after a hard ride when out of practice. The indications for treatment are: (1) relief of pain; (2) physiological rest for the affected muscle; (3) restoration of the balance between the nutrition of the muscle and the work it has to do; (4) constitutional remedies, such as quinine, iron, lime and cod liver oil.