

Feverishness is no contra-indication to its use. If the patient is very thirsty he may drink Clismic, Bethesda, Poland or Vichy Water. If he have a strong desire for solid food at the end of the second or third week, he may have a little stale white bread or toasted bread with salt, in the morning and again at 4 p.m. Once a day he may have some soup made of milk and oatmeal.

After continuing this treatment for five or six weeks it may be modified, by allowing the milk only thrice daily, and once a day steak or a chop. Raw meat digests most easily, and should be used in preference to the cooked, when possible.

It may be necessary to add a little salt to the milk in some cases, and in others to have the milk drunk when very hot. If the patient become flatulent, buttermilk is often beneficial in small quantities.

THE TREATMENT OF SCALP WOUNDS AT THE CHAMBERS STREET HOSPITAL.

Dr. C. R. Parke, in an article published recently in the *New York Medical Journal*, makes the following statements :

Our present method of treating a scalp wound is as follows : Upon admission of the patient, the wound and bloody hair are thoroughly cleansed with a douche of the hydronaphthol solution, next the hair is carefully cut with scissors for about one inch around the margins of the wound, after which it is cleanly shaved ; the wound is now again cleansed with the hydronaphthol, all clots and foreign bodies being removed, and careful examination for fracture made. This now being found, we proceed to the dressing, which consists in inserting ten or twelve horse hairs through the bottom of the wound, the opposing edges of the wound being carefully approximated and sewn together with catgut sutures, the horse hair projecting about three-fourths of an inch beyond the ends of the wound and thus acting as an excellent drain. The wound is now again washed with the hydro-naphthol, and powdered iodoform lightly dusted over the line of the sutures, upon which are applied a few layers of iodoform gauze ; over this is placed a large compress of absorbent gauze, extending several inches beyond the wound on every side, the whole being held in place by a bandage, the style of which depends upon the location of the injury. The patient is told to return in two days, provided no pain or unlooked-for symptoms arise, under which circumstances he is requested to return at once. Upon returning two days later, as a rule, we find primary union throughout the entire length of the wound, excepting at the ends where the drain protrudes. We have now converted the open scalp wound into a perfectly drained sinus. All but three or four of the horse hairs are removed, the sinus is irrigated with the hydronaphthol solution, and the same style of dressing re-applied.

In two or three days more the sinus has so narrowed down that the remaining horse hairs can with safety be withdrawn, and complete healing can occur under the dressing then applied ; the catgut sutures are absorbed and give rise to no trouble. The wound thus heals with little or no scar, as compared with the plan which allows the wound to granulate from the bottom, and furthermore offers the advantage of healing in a much shorter time. The virtues which I maintain for the hydronaphthol solution over those possessed by the carbolic acid and bichloride solutions are that it is without odor, and does not burn or discolor the hands as carbolic acid does, neither does it ruin one's instruments nor cause any danger from absorption, as if the case with the bichloride, while at the same time it is a perfect deodorizer, non-irritant, and, as I think, a desinfectant.

In order to give a little idea of the results we obtain under this method of treatment, I took at random 30 out of the 123 cases treated here in thirty days and carefully looked the patients up ; five of them never returned after the first dressing was applied. Of twenty-five there was a full record until they were discharged cured. The longest period that any patient was under treatment was ten days, and the shortest three days, the average being six *plus*. The greatest number of dressings employed in any case was six, and the smallest two, the average being three *plus*.

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