

upon as possessed of these powers in a less degree; at least I can say that lingering inflammation appears to give way under its use more certainly and rapidly than when it is not employed, and I can positively state that I have treated formidable relapsing inflammations of the eye of scrofulous character, but originally syphilitic, with it successfully. It must not, however, be forgotten that inflammations of the eye, like all other inflammations, sooner or later subside, be the treatment what it may, or even without any treatment; and that syphilitic inflammation runs its course, and finally disappears also; too much importance should not, therefore, be attached to this or any other remedy, lest by relying on it exclusively, we neglect others. We have always to bear in mind that in treating inflammation of the eye we should, after failing to subdue the vascular action at the commencement, direct our attention to the prevention of those disorganizing processes of this condition of parts; and keeping this in view, I think that both from theory and experience iodine is entitled to confidence. I have generally given the iodide of potassium in the cases alluded to either alone or in decoction of sarsaparilla or bark, as the syphilitic symptoms or debility of the system may require the one in reference to the other; and I have given it to the extent of ten grains three times a day. I have also given the combination of iodine and iodide of potassium, as suggested by Mr. Carmichael, and I do not think that I can with safety state that the latter was less effectual than the former.

If turpentine or iodine be found ineffectual or inapplicable in the treatment of syphilitic inflammation of the eye not admitting of relief by mercury, the practitioner has to consider what other remedial resources are within his reach. He has indeed in some cases of inflammation of the eye, modified perhaps by the constitutional influence of syphilis, scrofula, rheumatism, and mercury, to encounter often the greatest difficulties which practice presents. Bleeding, local or even general, may, in certain cases, be still available, and may be followed by antimonial medicines and other antiphlogistic treatment; but this does not often happen, the state of the constitution more frequently requiring nutritious food and preparations of bark or other tonics. Sarsaparilla, colchicum, and guaicum, afford the best prospect of advantage where rheumatic constitutional disease exists, and the hydriodate of potash in decoction of bark, with some tincture of the same, promises best in scrofulous habits. In these cases where we may say mercury has gone astray, the disease remaining stationary, and the general health impaired, I generally discontinue all medical treatment for a time, and make such change as to diet, ventilation, and temperature, as can with safety be adopted. Practitioners are sometimes too anxious to push powerful remedies to the utmost without delay, apprehensive that the inflammation is causing rapid disorganization, but there is often no necessity for this hurry. The inflammation, we may say, at this period has spent its force and assumed a chronic form, requiring more a steady and continued plan of well considered treatment than any sudden change of a very decided nature. *Festina lente* is frequently the maxim to be inculcated, and in accordance with it, I generally find myself acting. In private practice, when I am permitted to have my own way, I am in the habit of commencing by getting rid of all those incumbrances which accumulate in a sick room, and making such arrangements as will secure the admission of light and fresh air; an object often difficult of accomplishment; such places being generally more like the crowded storerooms of furniture dealers than apartments provided for human beings. All medicine is then discontinued for a time, and nutritious digestible food substituted for slops, and compositions offensive to the stomach and pernicious to the system. The patient, if in bed, is quietly dressed and placed in his chair, and if circumstances admit of it, in a day or two is removed to a sitting

room, and every arrangement made to restore him to the comforts of which, as an invalid he was deprived. This being done, the remedies above enumerated may be again resorted to, and the most appropriate either resumed or administered for the first time. To those who rely on the abstraction of the blood from the system and suspension of the process of nutrition by denial of food in the treatment of inflammation during its entire progress, refraining from the use of the lancet and application of leeches, will obtain little favour; nevertheless it is an undoubted fact that inflammation is often rendered less destructive by preserving the natural powers of growth and respiration unimpaired. I may not go the length of Mr. Hewson, when he says, "the patient may be saved the inconveniences of bloodletting or blistering, as they do not afford the smallest benefit, nor will they allay a single distressing symptom; and the same may be said of purgatives; in which respects the venereal ophthalmia is singular, and differs from all other analogous affections," but I feel much inclined to give a qualified assent to this opinion of a trustworthy and practical man. Over and over again I have treated relapsing cases of inflammation of the eye successfully without abstracting a drop of blood, which in former attacks had been treated by profuse bleeding; and I am often obliged to administer mercury while I allow the patient his usual supply of animal food, and have even to accompany it by bark or quinine. Amongst the species or modifications of inflammations of the eye, an iritis from the use of mercury has been enumerated. There does not, however, appear to be any substantial grounds for the distinction. That such inflammation occurs after, or even during, the administration of mercury, cannot be denied, but that it is a consequence of it remains to be proved. There is nothing whatever in the appearance, progress, or result of inflammation of the eye following the use of mercury to justify us in assuming that it is of peculiar character; neither does the treatment require particular adaptation to any peculiar condition of the parts.

Syphilitic inflammation of the eye is sometimes, although rarely, met with in infants, and it may be assumed that its rare occurrence is to be attributed to the comparative infrequency of syphilitic disease at this time of life. The practitioner should therefore bear in mind the possibility of the existence of such disease when called upon to attend to infants suffering from diseases of the eye, or of its future appearance in those labouring under symptoms of syphilis, without any present appearance of iritis. This it is necessary to inculcate, because syphilitic inflammation of the eye sometimes takes place in infants, as in adults, unaccompanied by any other form of the disease; and is sometimes accompanied by such slight increase of vascularity or other appearance of disease that it may escape notice. In the early stages, redness of the sclerotic, discoloration of the iris, and irregularity of the pupil, are the appearances to be observed; and at a more advanced period, alteration in shape of the sclerotic and cornea, contraction of the pupil, and adhesion of its margin to an opaque lens. Sometimes a dilated and irregular pupil with a transparent lens is the consequence; but in either case, when the disease has escaped observation, or has been neglected or mismanaged, insensibility of the retina or amaurosis and consequent blindness remains. At this time of life little information as to the extent of the disease can be obtained from trial of the visual power of the organ. The baby will grasp at a watch or other bright object presented to it as long as any degree of sight remains, but slighter defects of vision can scarcely be detected. It is therefore necessary to make a very careful examination of the eye, and close inquiry as to the presence of other syphilitic disease, or of its previous existence. I see these cases oftener after the mischief has been done and the organ destroyed, than during the commencement of the attack when it might be