

The second part as usual contains the formulae of the different pharmaceutical preparations, and the appendix those agents required in their preparation that cannot be properly classed among remedies.

In remarking on the various improvements, Dr. Garrod commences at the beginning, and notices the introduction of glacial acetic acid, stating, among others of its qualities, its usefulness as an application for the removal of warts and corns. Next of sulphurous acid, and the sulphite and hyposulphite of soda, for generating it slowly and constantly on exposure. He states his confidence in it for all parasitic affections of the skin, and gives the mode of employment as follows :

R Sulphite or Hyposulphite of Soda, ℥j.
Acetic Acid, ℥j. Water, ℥viij. M

S. The lotion to be frequently applied with a sponge, or lint kept constantly moist to the part.

The simultaneous separation of sulphur when the hyposulphite is used is of no disadvantage, on the contrary, in many of the cases is of benefit. To ascertain that its beneficial effect was not due to the acetic acid alone, he repeatedly employed the above mixture on one side of the body, whilst the other was treated with the acetic acid alone and of the same strength, and the advantage has proved to be in favour of the salts, although there is no doubt that the acetic acid is likewise a remedial agent in cases of this kind. I think, he says, that the gas thus yielded by these salts deserves a much more extended trial as a remedial agent.

In speaking of the introduction of arnica root and its tincture, he says, — I devised the following method to test its usefulness, dry cupping is well known to produce ecchymoses, more or less severe according to the amount of exhaustion of the glasses, and the length of time they are applied. In the first trial, six patients were selected, and on the chest of each two symmetrical bruises were made, one on each side of the sternum; on one side arnica lotion was applied, containing one part of the tincture to three of water; upon the other spirit and water of the same alcoholic strength. In one case the result appeared in favour of the arnica, in another in favour of the spirit, and in the remaining four no perceptible difference could be detected. These lotions were not applied until well marked ecchymosis was established, and they were kept constantly to the parts for two or three days. And when the whole of them were compared to cases in which nothing whatever had been done, the results were extremely similar!

Nor could any superiority be discovered between the pure tincture and spirit of equal strength. Nor any distinction be made as to covering the tincture or spirit with oiled silk, or allowing it to remain uncovered to evaporate. But in both cases discoloration was checked, and the bruises faded rapidly. The deductions from these observations were that the application of spirit to bruises is of very decided advantage, and that the addition of arnica does not render it more efficacious.

Judging from the present, the remaining lectures of Dr. Garrod cannot but prove instructive, in giving us the different ideas which have been canvassed by the celebrated men who have been engaged in its construction. We shall hail their appearance therefore with pleasure.

The first edition of the Pharmacopœia has been published at 10s. 6d., but we learn that a cheaper one may soon be expected.—Edit.

BROMINE

IN GANGRENE, ERYSIPELAS, AND DIPHThERIA

On page 36 of this periodical will be found some remarks by Dr. Stanford, on the employment and the success of bromine in hospital gangrene. Surgeon Goldsmith, the discoverer of its effects in this disease, gives in the American Medical Times of Sept. last, a consolidated statement of upwards of 350 cases, occurring in the Military Hospitals of Louisville, New Albany, Nashville, and Murfreesboro. By it, we find that the mortality after its adoption, has been less than three per cent. And he denies that these even would have been fatal had not granulation been checked by a too frequent application. He shows also that the total results do not differ, whether this liquid be employed pure or in solution, although experience, he says, has taught the army surgeons that the speedier and better mode is to apply the pure undiluted bromine and that unlike destructive caustics, it does not affect the healthy tissues. His table teaches besides, that of those treated by means of nitric acid and other agents, but 50 per cent. have recovered.

He speaks also of four cases where the arteries had become involved, and hæmorrhage set in, and the surgeons had tied the vessels at the bottom of the sloughing surfaces before applying the bromine over the whole, and yet the patients had all done well, and recovered without any subsequent bleeding.

Dr. Post, who has recently returned from a visit of inspection to these hospitals, bears testimony to the truthfulness of this report. He thinks more favourably of the solution in such cases, and gives the following formula, as the one most usually employed.

Rx. Bromide of Potassium 170 grs. Water 4 oz. mix, and add Bromine 1 fluid oz. Shake the mixture well.

And recommends the use of a syringe, both for the washing of the gangrenous part, and the thorough injection of the solution, which destroys the odour at once, and gives the wound the appearance of being varnished.

Surgeons differ, he says, as to the frequency of its application, from once to two or three times in the twenty-four hours, until granulations become visible, after which the solution must be weakened.

Yeast is generally kept to the part when obtainable, but an excellent substitute, and one which is commonly employed in the army, is the ordinary poultice, made light and porous with carbonic acid generated from carbonate of soda and tartaric acid, which should be mixed in the proportion of 30 grains of the former, to 25 of the latter, to render it neutral.

It seems hardly necessary to state, that in conjunction with this local treatment, the system requires to be sustained by means of stimulant tonics, and good food.

Bromine has also proved extremely serviceable as a disinfectant of gangrene and erysipelas, in these hospitals; the vapour being allowed to pervade the apartment by occasional exposure of small quantities of the fluid upon saucers.

Dr. Post, in conclusion, alludes to the good effect of bromine in erysipelas. In the "Park Barracks," in Louisville, this disease broke out with great severity, and as soon as the bromine treatment was introduced, the disease ceased to spread. The remedy was used both in fumigation and as a local application. The surgeons were in the habit of moistening lint with the compound solution, of