

That this is actually so is proved by a series of cases reported by Dr. Strong.* He treated lobar pneumonia by large doses of calomel. In most cases he gave 20 grains every three hours for twenty-four hours. In one case, that of a woman, he gave an initial dose of 60 grains, followed by 30 grains every three hours, making 360 grains altogether. In none of these cases was there more than moderate catharsis and there was no ptyalism. Dr. A. W. Messer informs me that he has given similar doses with the same result, and repeated doses of 20 grains have also been given with apparent advantage in cholera. A recent case of my own also illustrates the comparative harmlessness of calomel.

A boy, aged three and a half years, obtained possession of a bottle of 120 cachous, each of which contained one grain of calomel, and ate 110 of them. He came under treatment within about twenty minutes. This consisted first of a dose of eight grains of sulphate of zinc. This did not produce emesis, and was quickly followed by apomorphine, one-fortieth of a grain hypodermically, which produced free vomiting. The stomach was then washed out through an ordinary stomach-tube, bringing away more of the disintegrated pink cachous. A solution of bicarbonate of sodium was used in washing in order to neutralise the free hydrochloric acid and so prevent conversion into perchloride. After the washing five ounces of milk were poured down the tube and left in the stomach. The patient immediately fell asleep. Half an hour later he vomited again and then slept undisturbed for nine hours. There was no further vomiting. The first motion of the bowels did not take place until twelve hours after the calomel was taken; it was copious and soft but not liquid. A second motion, which consisted entirely of an almost gelatinous green mucus, occurred four hours later. After that the bowels were moved only normally. The patient never at any time showed any ill effects or any other symptoms than those recorded. Other cachous previously taken from the same bottle had produced their normal therapeutic effect, so there is no reason to doubt their reputed strength.

The absence of ill effects in this case may be largely due to the prompt energetic treatment, so that it alone proves nothing. But as at least half an hour elapsed between ingestion and the first emesis there had been plenty of time for absorption with so large a quantity present, and, further, as washing never absolutely clears the stomach some must have been left. It may

**New York Medical Record*, March 16th, 1889.