

may be well acted upon by a tepid or even by a cold bath, according to the strength of the patient, the precise nature of the case under observation, and the season of the year, followed by friction and rubbing with a coarse towel, the good effect of which can hardly be overrated; for whilst the skin is thereby relieved of alcoholic perspiration and other effete matter from the blood, the sentient extremities of the nerves are roused to more vigorous action, and respiration is rendered temporarily more active. A tumbler of cold water given on entering the bath materially increases its efficacy. Of the medicinal remedies best calculated to promote the moderate action of the organs named, none are perhaps better than the compound jalap-powder in conjunction with nitric spirit of ether; and I have usually found one, or at most two doses of two drachms of the former and half a drachm of the latter effectually to relieve both the bowels and kidneys.

The second indication of treatment—the restoration of nerve-power—will be found best and most readily accomplished by the administration of warm milk, either alone or with eggs beaten up in it, for, containing as it does every element of nutrition most easily assimilated, it is singularly calculated to take a quarter or half a pint of warm milk, either alone or with the yolk of an egg beaten up in it, we need scarcely any longer be apprehensive as to the issue of the case, and we can then give a mutton chop or other solid food, which will be another great point gained. It is, however, most important that the milk be taken warm, in order to ensure its rapid and easy digestion. If there is stomach irritability, it must of course be met in the usual way; and if obstinate (though I have not had occasion to try it), I should anticipate the best results from a bladder of ice to the epigastrium, as calculated to restore tone to the nervous system through the especial medium of the solar plexus and the other sympathetic ganglia.

As regards the third principle of treatment—the induction of sleep: having in some measure fulfilled the two former—namely, the eradication of the poison from the system, and the partial restoration of nerve-force by the assimilation of nourishment,—we have doubtless gained a great point in this direction; and, desirable as sleep may be, still I do not advocate the use of many medicines with that object, and I think that in chloral hydrate we have nearly all we want. Indeed, I have so often found that the sleep induced by medicines, especially any form of sedative narcotic, has not been followed by any permanent subsidence of delirium or other urgent symptom; and, from the very transient good effects of sleep thus artificially induced, I am disposed to think that too much stress has been laid upon its importance, and that the value of nourishment in the treatment of delirium tremens has been overlooked.

I shall not here occupy space by the report of cases in support of the above belief, though almost the last case under treatment very forcibly confirmed it; for though several hours of good sound sleep had followed the administration of half a drachm of chloral hydrate, the patient's condition was alarmingly prostrate until egg and milk had been assimilated. Hence I am persuaded that, having once secured the digestion and assimilation of food, we may be less anxious about sleep, and rest satisfied by placing our patient under conditions favourable for it; whilst chloral, judiciously administered, either alone or in milk or some other form of liquid nourishment, is almost the only medicinal hypnotic that I would advocate.

Having thus endeavoured to indicate what appears to me to be a rational method for the treatment of delirium tremens, on the principles set forth in the order named, I feel that these require a liberal interpretation; for doubtless the greatest success in the treatment of this affection, as of most others, will follow the ready appreciation of the most urgent symptoms in this or that particular case. Hence it may be sometimes necessary to disregard the first principle, and at once to direct our efforts to the attainment of the second, by the administration of nourishment; and even to anticipate the third, by placing the patient under conditions favourable to sleep. In like manner, much can be done by judicious general management—by humouring the whims and fancies of a patient, when not of a dangerous character or tendency, and so long as he is carefully watched. Instead of confining a sufferer to the recumbent posture in bed, he may be allowed to be up, to walk about, and to engage in conversation and harmless amusement, whilst the process of digestion and assimilation is going on, or until sleep comes naturally.—Dr. Longurst in "*The Lancet*," August 1st.

Toronto Hospital Reports.

PERITONITIS.

No. 1. Joseph Kinville, æt. 21 years, raftsmen, French Canadian. Patient was admitted August 7th. He had complained for about 8 or 10 days before admission of a pain somewhat resembling colic, but had no diarrhoea. He was then compelled to cease working, and received medical treatment. He had taken to his bed several days before admission. He presents a most haggard and dejected appearance; the eyes were sunk, and the whole of his body covered with perspiration. The pulse 130, feeble and compressible. The tongue is dried and furred, and the abdomen distended. Excessive tenderness is produced from