

I have at present under my care at St. Mary's Hospital an excellent illustration of this fact. When the patient, a stout, florid, middle-aged woman, first came under my care some months ago, she was tormented with violent itching of the privates. Suspecting diabetes, I had the urine examined, and then, and ever since, it has contained an abundance of sugar. She rarely passes more than a normal amount of urine, looks as hearty as can be, and from the first application of the treatment—a borax lotion—has almost lost the itching. As the object of this short paper is merely to put others on the track of diabetes through the pruritic symptom, I will add no more, but await hopefully the statement of the experience of others.—*Lancet*.

ON AN IMPROVED METHOD OF TREATING FACIAL PARALYSIS.

BY WILLIAM A. HAMMOND, M.D.

In no disease are prompt measures more necessary than in facial paralysis. A few weeks', and sometimes a few days' delay are sufficient to diminish the conductivity of the nerve, and the contractility of the paralyzed muscles, besides initiating a state of tonic rigidity in the latter, most prejudicial to the obtainment of a complete cure.

The paralysis of the muscles supplied by the facial nerve, when induced by cold, I have heretofore found to be generally manageable by the use of strychnia, electricity, passive exercise, and the support to the affected side of the face, given by a little hook placed in the angle of the mouth and fastened to the ear by an elastic band. These measures are by no means to be discarded, and one of them, strychnia, is to be even more energetically employed. The improvement to which I refer, in fact, consists in the administration of strychnia in increasing doses to the point of rapidly—as rapidly in fact as is consistent with prudence—bringing the patient under its full physiological influence.

For this purpose I make use of a solution of the sulphate of strychnia in the proportion of one grain to the ounce of water. Every ten minims of such a solution contain 1-48 of a grain of the medicine. Generally I begin with ten minims of this solution three times a day

for the first day; the next day eleven minims are given three times; the next twelve, and so on, till the patient experiences a sensation of cramp or rigidity in the legs, or in the muscles of the back of the neck or of the jaw. Usually the cramp is first felt in the calves of the legs. The further administration is now stopped, and, if necessary, on the following day the solution is given as before, in doses of ten minims, and the doses are again run up to the extent of producing the muscular cramp.—*St. Louis Record*.

OBSTINATE HICCUGH CURED BY EPIGASTRIC COMPRESSION.—In the *Lyons Medical* is a notice of a case of hiccough, occurring suddenly in a man suffering from blenorrhagic urethritis, and lasting without interruption, either by night or day, for three weeks. Morphinated blisters and hot iron points to the epigastrium had been used in vain, as well as morphia injections in the course of the phrenic nerves, touching the back of the throat with liquid ammonia, and internally ether, bromide of potassium, bromide of camphor, chloral, sulphate of atropia, sulphate of quinine, musk, &c. Compression of the epigastrium arrested it, but as soon as the pressure was intermitted it recurred. Pressure was therefore permanently kept up by one of Petit's tourniquets, and had to be maintained for eight days, a recurrence of the hiccough following its removal every time within that period. It was subsequently necessary to replace it several times to ward off recurrences, but the spasms were ultimately definitively arrested.

TREATMENT OF INTERMITTENT FEVER BY CARBOLIC ACID.—Stern gave carbolic acid in recent cases as well as in old cases relapsing after quinine. He prescribed it according to the formula of Hehle: carbolic acid 0.40, distilled water 180.00 (or 1 in 72); one tablespoonful three times a day. Out of twenty cases so treated, fourteen were cured after a single dose of this solution, four after two doses; two cases resisted the treatment. Six were quotidian fevers, eleven tertian, and two quartan; in these last, there was no return of the attack after the beginning of the carbolic acid treatment; in the tertians, there was ordinarily one more attack, in the quotidian, two more.—*Gaz. Méd. de Strasbourg*.