

quite correct. I advised that the iodine should be applied to the cervix and to the vaginal end of its canal; and stated that since 1883, when I first adopted the theory that the vomiting of pregnancy was reflexly due to the centre of irritation near the os uteri internum, I had used this method of counter-irritation in every severe case, and that I had not as yet failed to relieve the vomiting immediately. A few cases have needed one or two repetitions of the application at the end of from five to fifteen days, when the effect of the counter-irritation had worn away, but the relief then became permanent.

In the paper referred to, I argued that a prompt use of this remedy in severe cases would prevent the occurrence of the so-called "uncontrollable" or "pernicious" type of the disease, which differs only in degree and not in kind from the milder forms. Many cases, "uncontrollable" when treated by drugs, local application of cocaine, etc., have yielded to this counter-irritation.

I have taught this method for some years at Charing Cross Hospital, and students have told me how useful it has proved to them afterwards in private practice, and I trust that others may now give it a trial, for I believe it to be perfectly safe, easy, and certain. Hitherto I have found that a solution of iodine made of equal parts of iodine, iodide of potassium, spirits of wine, and water, gives the surest results.

THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF INDIAN HEMP.—Mr. Suckling, of Birmingham, writing to the *Ther. Med. Jour.* on the above drug, says: "I have, during the last few years been accustomed to prescribe Indian hemp in many conditions, and this drug seems to me to deserve a better repute than it has obtained. In one form of insanity, more common in women than in men, and brought on usually by mental worry, often owing to the illness of a near relative, or by a moral shock, the drug acts almost as a specific. In this affection the patient is depressed and apprehensive, she imagines that animals are after her, or that someone wants to injure her. There is great mental confusion and mental loss, the patient is unable to carry on any conversation, and sometimes is unable to dress herself, the condition being one of acute dementia. I have notes of several such cases that have been cured by Indian hemp within

a fortnight. I usually give 10-minim doses of the tincture thrice daily, combined with iron and strychnine. I prescribe also complete rest and plenty of food. The Indian hemp is an essential factor in the treatment, for without it the rapid recovery does not ensue; it seems to remove the mental distress and the restlessness. Indian hemp has proved very useful in my hands in the treatment of melancholia and mania. I have also found this drug of great value in the treatment of chorea when arsenic fails, as it frequently does. It may be combined with chloral with advantage in such cases. In migraine the drug is also of great value; a pill containing $\frac{1}{4}$ grain of the extract, with or without a $\frac{1}{4}$ grain of phosphide of zinc, will often immediately check an attack, and if the pill be given twice a day continuously the severity and frequency of the attacks are often much diminished. I have met with patients who have been incapacitated for work from the frequency of the attacks, and who have been enabled by the use of Indian hemp to resume their employment. This drug is also a valuable gastric sedative in cases of gastric ulcer and gastrodynia. It may be combined with nitrate of silver, and it increases the efficacy of the latter. Its value is well known to asylum physicians, but it does not appear to have obtained the confidence of the profession generally. Indian hemp is also a very valuable hypnotic.

PRURITIS ANI.—Dr. A. H. Ohmann-Dumesnil, of St. Louis College of P. and S., thus treats pruritis ani which may be of a few months' or a few years' standing (*St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.*) The functions of the rectum must be properly performed. Tone up the nervous system as follows:

R—Syr. hypophos. co., $\bar{3}$ iv.

Sig.— $\bar{3}$ j. in water four times a day.

After a time the following is ordered:

R—Liq. kali. arsenit., $\bar{3}$ ijss.

Vini ferri, $\bar{3}$ iv.

Sig.— $\bar{3}$ j. in water after each meal.

After having been taken for a sufficient time, the following pill is administered:

R—Strychniæ sulph., gr. j.

Ferri redacti,

Quiniæ bisulph., āā $\bar{3}$ j.—M.

Ft. massa et divide in pil. No. 60. Sig.—One pill three times a day.