

it is the first thing to be done, and he has seen it succeed when death seemed imminent." In extreme cases, where death threatens from asphyxia, the operation of tracheotomy should be employed. The inhalation of chloroform has been recommended in some cases, but then its influence soon passes off, and it cannot be said to have any curative effect. When there is much restlessness, and the child can obtain no sleep, the excitability of the nervous centres must be calmed, and for this purpose small doses of morphia may be cautiously employed. In the intervals of the seizures the bowels must be kept freely open, so as to remove all sources of irritation that might sympathetically excite spasm.

Among the chief drugs are belladonna, in the form of extract or tincture, which sometimes has the effect of diminishing the glottic spasm, but in most cases it fails altogether. Bromide of potassium is very serviceable given with citrate of potassium, sal volatile, or quinine, according to the peculiarities of each case. Carbonate of ammonia, henbane, bark, and mild preparations of iron, as the ammonio-citrate, or the syrup of the iodide, are remedies to be selected. If the child is strumous and rickety, or in any way delicate, cod-liver oil is invaluable. It is a remedy which ought to be persevered with, as, by improving the general health, we may so keep off the disease.

Diet is of great importance, and, when carefully selected, the disease may disappear without drugs. If the child is fed at the breast, it is sometimes advisable to change the nurse or to give cow's or ass's milk. If older the food must be light and nutritious, and given frequently, in small quantities. The clothing should be warm, and, if the child is not too ill, he ought to be taken out in the open air daily.

CONFLAGRATION FROM THE USE OF THE THERMO-CAUTERY DURING ANÆSTHESIA FROM ETHER.

The *British Medical Journal* (November 22, 1879,) from a French source, gives an account of an operation under ether for arthritis of the knee-joint, in which the actual cautery was employed. Five ounces of ether had been employed. The window had been opened, the room was large, and the ether-bag was to a certain extent separated from the thermo-cautery. Suddenly the room was in flames, and the bed was enveloped in them. The ether-bag was thrown down on the floor, and the patient quickly removed. She was only slightly burned, but the physician who was administering the ether was severely injured. Similar accidents have been noticed elsewhere. Ignition does not occur when the wire is only heated to redness: a white heat is necessary. Some years ago Dr.

Dolbeau practiced local anæsthesia with ether spray on the hemorrhoids of a patient about to be operated upon. The apparatus having been removed, the red-hot iron was applied, but the ether vapor caught fire, and produced a general conflagration and extensive burning of the surrounding parts without affecting the hemorrhoids.

THE TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS.

In a paper read before the Los Angeles County Medical Association, November 7th, 1879, and published in the *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, December, 1879, Walter Lindley, M.D., thus describes the plan which he has adopted and practiced for many years:—

When a patient comes to me with a well marked syphilitic chancre and bubo, I tell him distinctly that I will not undertake to cure him unless he will remain under my treatment for one year. If he consents, I prescribe—

R. Iodoform, 3j
Mucilage,
Glycerine, aa gtt.x
Oil of peppermint, gtt.j M.

Make into a paste and apply to the chancre after washing, night and morning. This combination disguises the offensive odor of the iodoform.

For the bubo I usually prescribe iodine for paint, but doubt whether it is of much advantage.

Internally I give—

R. Pil. hydrarg., gr. iiss
Quinise sulph., gr. ss. M.

Ft. pil.

Sig.—Take one three times daily.

If the patient is in the secondary stage, I give a mixture, as a rule as follows:—

R Hydrarg. chlor. corros., gr. ij.
Pot. iodidi,
Pot. chloratis, aa 3 iiss
Syrup sarsaparillae comp., 3 iv. M.

Sig.—Take one teaspoonful three times daily.

Substituting comp. tinct. cinchona for sarsaparilla in atonic cases.

In the tertiary stages I increase the quantity of iodide of potassium, but adhere to the mixed treatment.

In the first of my practice, when I was in charge of the out-door surgical clinic, Brooklyn Eastern District Hospital, I often had cases of marked tertiary syphilis on whom I would first try the much vaunted large doses of iodide of potassium. The patient would improve for a while and then stop. I would add corrosive sublimate, and the change would be wonderful. He would gain in flesh and strength, and soon be free of pain.

Some advocates of the iodide treatment say