

The occasion on which my attention was first called to the powerful effect of the Iodide of Potassium in curing chronic hydrocephalus, was to me, a young practitioner, ardently watching for every opportunity to rise to a conspicuous place among my medical brethren, one of intense gratification. The humble cottage and the pauper patients, (mother and child) are as freshly imprinted on my memory now after a lapse of six and twenty years, as they ever were; and though my services were gratuitous, I can look back on the treatment of that pauper mother and her Idiotic infant with the most heartfelt satisfaction. On being called to visit the persons who are the subject of these remarks, I found the mother labouring under idiopathic Tetanus, and on opening the door a most violent tetanic spasm was induced. I had to wait till the poor creature was temporarily released from the fit, to ascertain the exact nature of her case, during which time I may remark, the poor infant fell helpless from its helpless mother's arms to the floor. This happened before I had time to rescue it, and while I was intently watching the poor mother's agony.

The child was fearfully emaciated. I looked on it as beyond human help, and hoped that death might terminate its sufferings. My attendance on the mother continued four and five times daily for several days, till I had the satisfaction of establishing her health, when other duties called for thought and action elsewhere. After some months, a young medical friend, House Surgeon to the North Devon Infirmary, England, called my attention to the idiotic child, and said he regretted I had not treated the child while the mother was under my care; remarking, that on the recovery of the mother, the child was brought to the Infirmary, and under the steady and continued use of the Iodide of Potass internally, and Tincture of Iodine to the scalp, was restored to perfect health. In my long, and I hope not useless professional career, I have had that case as a guiding star, and it has never led me astray, nor deceived me; and I thank God, through its instrumentality, I have been the humble means of restoring to many a heart-broken mother her offspring, not only snatched from an untimely grave, but what was a far greater affliction, from the vacant unrecognising stare of idioty, and implanting reason firmly on its throne.

Since I first began the employment of the remedy, I have met with and treated fifteen cases of the disease. (No deaths have occurred from the disease itself.) One of the patients died of typhus fever at eleven years of age, and the other a considerable time after the treatment of her case by me, of whooping cough. I think this will compare favourably with any method of treatment recommended by authors.

I shall now adduce four cases of the disease in evidence, selected as being more marked in my memory, and as having occurred within the last ten years. In 1855, in the spring of the year, I was requested to visit I. G——, aged ten months; the father was a man of extremely irregular habits, and the mother's disposition was irritable to a degree. The disease had made its appearance at the date of teething, and had advanced to a very considerable length when placed under my care. The frontal suture was open, fontanelles remarkably tense and enlarged, the forehead projected over the eyebrows. The mental faculties were very dull, the child remained in a languid, listless state, and at