

to other remedies; we are only anxious to draw attention to its virtues.

Gas is in some instances formed in the stomach, in others in the large intestine, in some patients in both. Our observations were made on stomach flatulence, and as glycerin is so readily absorbed we should hardly expect that it would influence the formation of wind in the colon, except given in large doses, and when it acts as a slight laxative, and so expels the putrefying mass which forms the wind.

In some cases it removes pain and vomiting, probably like charcoal, by preventing the formation of acrid acids, which irritate delicate and irritable stomachs.

We suggest that it acts by retarding or preventing some forms of fermentation and of putrefaction. J. Mekulics (*Archiv. f. Klin. Chir.*) shows that glycerin prevents putrefaction of nitrogenous substances, as of blood diluted with water, which speedily decomposes at the ordinary temperature of the air. Two per cent. of glycerin retarded decomposition for twenty-four hours; ten per cent. for five days. If the fluid were placed in the hatching-oven, then two per cent. retarded decomposition for several hours, ten per cent. for forty-eight hours, and twenty per cent. altogether prevented putrefaction. He also proves that glycerin destroys bacteria and prevents the formation of septic poison, though it will dissolve and preserve the septic poison itself.

TREATMENT OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

Dr. Alfred Stillé, *Medical Record*, in referring to blisters and alkalies, in the treatment of acute articular rheumatism, remarks as follows: It may be difficult to see the connection between these two classes of remedies in their power to influence the course of acute articular rheumatism, and yet it is certain that they do so influence it, and in the same way, *i. e.*, by altering the condition of the blood from acid to alkaline. If you ask me to explain to you how blisters act in this way, I am obliged to confess my ignorance. To produce this effect, they must be applied over all the affected joints. Experience, if not science, has decided conclusively in their favor. They do produce a cessation of local symptoms, render the urine alkaline and diminish the fibrin in the blood.

This brings us to a consideration of the use of alkalies. Alkalies neutralize the acids, act as diuretics, and eliminate the *materies morbi*. Alone, and in small doses, they are unable to cure; but when given in very large doses, their effects are marvelous; the pulse falls, the urine is increased in quantity and becomes alkaline, and the inflammation subsides. The symptoms of the disease are moderated, the duration of the attack is shortened, and the cardiac complications are prevented.

The dose of the alkalies must be increased until

the acid secretions are neutralized. A very good combination of these remedies is the following:

℞ Sodæ bicarb.	3 iss
Potas. acetatis.	3 ss
Acid. cit.	3 ss
Aquæ	℥ f. ʒ ij

S.—This dose should be repeated every three or four hours until the urine becomes alkaline. On the subsidence of the active symptoms, two grains of quinia may be added, with advantage, to each dose. The alkalies must be gradually discontinued, but the quinia continued.

The diet should consist of beef-tea or broth, with bread and milk; no solid food should be allowed. Woolen cloths, moistened with alkaline solutions, may with advantage be applied to the affected joints. To these laudanum may be added for its anodyne effect.

The patient must be sedulously protected from vicissitudes of temperature, and lie in bed between blankets. The alkaline treatment relieves the pain, abates the fever, and saves the heart by lessening the amount of fibrin in the blood.

A long time ago Dr. Owen Rees, of London, introduced the use of lemon-juice. This remedy was thought to convert uric acid into urea, and so to help elimination. Though the treatment is practically right, the theory of it is wrong. Lemon-juice does good in mild cases, but cannot be relied upon in severe attacks.

During the febrile stage of acute articular rheumatism the diet should consist mainly of farinaceous and mucilaginous preparations, with lemonade and carbonic acid water as a drink. The cloths applied to the joints should be changed when they become saturated with sweat, and in changing them the patient should be protected from the air.

The sweating may be controlled by small doses of atropia, from one-sixtieth to one-thirtieth of a grain. To prevent subsequent stiffness, the joints should be bathed with warm oil and chloroform, and wrapped in flannel cloths. In the proper season this condition is very well treated by sea-bathing. There is no specific plan of treatment in acute articular rheumatism. The treatment must vary according to the intensity of the inflammation, and the peculiarities of the patient.

TREATMENT IN CASES OF EXCESSIVE LOCHIAL DISCHARGES.

Dr. Hugh Miller, in a clinical lecture delivered at Glasgow, recommends the following prescription in cases in which there is an excessive discharge, accompanied by a relaxed condition of the uterus. He administers one drachm doses of liquid extract of ergot repeated every three or four hours, and

℞ Quiniæ sulph.,	3 ss+
Acidi hydrobrom.,	3 vj
Aquam ad.,	℥ ij

Dose, one drachm in aq. ter. in die.