

TREATMENT OF ACUTE AND CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND ASTHMA.

Dr. W. H. Spurgin writes to the *British Medical Journal*, that he has tried iodide of potassium in the treatment of these maladies, in over one hundred cases, with almost invariable success; in fact, with such success that patients have expressed themselves by saying "it has acted like a charm;" others have said that no medicine ever had any real effect upon their complaint before. Iodide of potassium has a marked effect upon the breathing, reducing the frequency of the respirations, perhaps overcoming spasms. Almost after the first dose patients have stated they have felt the medicine touch their complaint.

He usually prescribes it with carbonate of ammonia, and, when the cough is very troublesome, adds tincture of belladonna and ipecacuanha wine.

In one case of very severe broncho-pneumonia he tried iodide of potassium, with tincture of hyoscyamus and ammonia, and the respirations were quickly and astonishingly reduced from forty in a minute to less than half that number.

He adds, in conclusion, that he has purposely given a mixture containing ammonia, belladonna, ipecacuanha wine, spirit of sulphuric ether, etc., without iodide of potassium, without finding much benefit; after which he added iodide of potassium, and found the patient relieved almost at once.

He confidently recommends iodide of potassium as the remedy in these troublesome complaints.—*Druggists' Circular—Med. News, Cincinnati.*

THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL" ON MEDICAL ADVERTISING.

We observe with much pleasure that the *British Medical Journal*, of Saturday last, has a very smart and pungent article against the system of advertising medical works and publications in lay papers, and we hope it will be the means of checking a practice which has been greatly on the increase of late, notwithstanding the resolutions condemning it, which have been passed by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Recently the *Lancet* has been extensively advertised in the lay papers, together with the names of some of the contributors to that journal, among others Sir W. Jenner, Sir H. Thompson, and Dr. Barnes. This gave the *British Medical Journal*, an opportunity of being somewhat severe on its aged and less vigorous cotemporary for its inconsistency. "No journal," says the *British Medical Journal*, "has been stronger in denouncing medical advertising than the one we mention, which even went so far as to blame a London physician by name for allowing copies of his works

to be upon the table of his waiting-room. Nevertheless, it avails itself of placards and railway bills to announce to gaping railway passengers the names of medical men who deal with all sorts of subjects which are to the multitude *curiæ*, and to the laity unclean. The names we have quoted are those of distinguished men, yet we find them, owing to the act of the oldest medical journal, and of the most respectable of publishers, figuring prominently in a half-page advertisement across the back of a leading evening paper," the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE FASHIONABLE PHYSICIAN.

The London *Globe* prints the following readable article. In the full swing of medical practice, it says, the pace is tremendous. When once the indefinable stamp of fashion is set upon a doctor every one wants to engage his services. You may go to the great man's house again and again, and the great man will not be able to see you. You may write to his Secretary, and the Secretary may make an appointment the week after next, but it by no means follows that he will be able to keep the appointment. As soon as the clock strikes two he makes a dash from the consulting-room, swallows an apology for a lunch, and you presently see him driving past the windows. In vain the unpunctuality is notorious, in vain the consulting fee is doubled. People are determined to have the great man, and the great man they accordingly get; they will bring him down 200 miles, though they have to pay 200 guineas for the journey. They will have him though the patient may be *in articulo mortis*. For there are circumstances under which some rich men think that no consultation is too costly. They will have him and no one else, although the case, scientifically considered, may be as simple as a cut finger. Some times they resort to him because the case has already baffled the average skill of the average practitioner, and it not unfrequently follows that the celebrated physician makes a diagnosis, and suggest a remedy that sets his brethren to rights. On the other hand, the average practitioner has his revenge in repeating stories of extraordinary blunders perpetrated by fashionable physicians. But when the fashionable physician has really obtained this immense practice, the charm of the practice must depart. The great physician becomes a great slave. He lives in a state of gilded captivity. He cannot call his house his own, or his hours his own, or his family his own. He is at the beck and call of the public. He takes his meals with his loins girded; or, rather, he may be obliged to exist on Liebig's extract for want of time to partake of solid food. When the tide of fashion sets in he is almost submerged beneath the wave. He bids farewell to leisure, friends, private life—all that makes existence endurable. The