

in excess and is cast off in the urine and feces unused and wasted, and strains and irritates the emunctories of the body during its passage through them.—*Editor Medical News.*

TREATMENT OF DYSENTERY BY ENEMATA OF CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE, ETC.

It is now generally recognized that certain morbid conditions of the intestinal tract may be favorably modified by various drugs belonging to the class of antiseptics, among which the chief are calomel, bismuth, naphthalin, and thymol. It is a noteworthy fact that these substances are all insoluble, and it is in virtue of this property that they are enabled to run the gauntlet of the absorbents and exert their specific action upon the intestinal contents. The best of all antiseptics—corrosive sublimate—has thus far been of little use for the purpose mentioned, because it was supposed that no benefit could be exerted by any but a lethal dose. While this may be true of its administration *per os*, it is shown by G. LEMOINE (*Bulletin général de Thérapeutique*, January, 1890) to be a mistake so far as concerns administration *per-rectum*.

Lemoine has treated fifty-four cases of dysentery by enemata of corrosive sublimate and with the happiest results. The strength of the solution was one to five thousand, of which, two hundred grammes were at first administered three times a day; later, two hundred grammes of a solution in one to three thousand were injected twice daily. Improvement showed itself, as a rule, after the first injection, the first symptoms to disappear being the tormina and tenesmus. In a certain number of cases the tenesmus was so great that the enema could not be administered without a preliminary treatment, which consisted in painting the sphincter with a five per cent. solution of cocaine.

In the acute cases, a cure resulted from this treatment in from three to four days; whereas, in the more chronic cases which presented themselves for treatment on account of an acute exacerbation, a cure was effected, as a rule, in one day. The latter treatment is somewhat startling in view of the well-known fact that chronic dysentery is decidedly rebellious to all the usual modes of treatment.

In no case was there any sign of systemic poisoning. It is probable, Lemoine believes, that the mercury is not absorbed when thus employed in dysentery. In five cases he tested the urine for mercury, and in every instance with negative results. This fact seems to stand in marked contradiction with the well-known absorbent power of the large intestine, and is probably due to the intensity of the inflammation of which it was the seat.

Lemoine's cases were all treated in Algiers, and many of them were of a severe type. In view of the infectious character of dysentery, the treatment is eminently rational, and the demonstration that our most powerful germicide can be used with impunity as an intestinal antiseptic is of decided value. At the same time, in view of the accidents that have followed the employment of resorcin in lavage of the stomach, we would recommend the greatest caution in the use *per enema* of the more poisonous corrosive sublimate.—*Editor Med. News.*

THE CLIMATOLOGY OF HÆMOPTYSIS

Dr Roland G. Curtin, of Philadelphia, in an address before the American Climatological Association, June 25, 1889, tabulates the influence of climate on hæmoptysis under two heads: first, the preventive and curative, and, second, the causative:—

1. Preventive and curative elements.

Rarefied air arrests the ulceration or other diseased processes and lowers the arterial tension. This greatly overbalances the unfavorable tendency of increased heart action and loss of support to the lungs from diminished air-pressure.

Cold air contracts the tissues and blood-vessels, thus preventing a flow of blood when such tendency exists. Its general invigorating effects are beneficial.

Dry air desiccates the pulmonary tissues, decreases the fluidity of the blood, and blocks up the blood-vessels,—all favoring the arrest and prevention of bleeding.

Aseptic air favors repair and cure of lung disease, and kills or dwarfs the action of the disease-germ.

Outdoor life, when not associated with too much exposure, exertion, or fatigue, is beneficial.

Sunshine improves the general nutrition.

2. Causative elements.

Sea-level air, by its greater density, diminishes the tendency to hæmoptysis, but the increased arterial tension and the moisture usually present in such localities more than counterbalance the beneficial effect of the support given by the air-pressure.

Salt air hastens the breaking-down process in tubercular lung disease. The effect is probably good in syphilitic lung troubles, and sometimes in simple chronic inflammatory non-tuberculous lung affections.

Moist air hastens the ulcerative process, liquefies the blood and secretions, and renders the tendency to the oozing and flowing of the blood more liable.

Warm air relaxes the tissues and blood-vessels and enervates and relaxes the system at large.