

In this connection, the treatment of spasmodic croup by Meigs may be of interest. He includes under this term all forms of the disease in which no false membranes are present. The first indication is always an emetic. For this purpose he considers alum and ipecac as the best combination. Emesis being produced, tr. opii is given. In a child of two years tr. opii gtt. ii., syr. ipecac gtt. x. every hour, until a decided soporific effect is produced. The next day child should be kept quiet and have tr. camph. co. gtt. v. and syr. ipecac gtt. v. every two hours until evening, when the tr. opii mixture should be repeated. In two or three days the attack has usually resolved itself into a coryza or bronchitis.

Another disease characterized by its localized symptoms is pertussis, and this has run the gauntlet of a therapeutics as varied as the preceding. The comparative value of the newer remedies,—Antipyrin, Acetanilide, and Phenacetin,—in the treatment of this disease have been studied by Dr. G. Leubuscher in an epidemic which occurred in Jena in the middle of the winter.

As concerns antipyrin, it behaves in a general way, according to the rules laid down by Sonnenberg, *z.e.*, to give the child in twenty-four hours the number of decigrams which it is years old, divided into three or four doses, or if under a year the number of centigrams that it is months old, being careful to continue the treatment until the violent coughing has completely ceased.

The results which he obtained agreed for the most part with those of Sonnenberg. He considers nevertheless that the latter has somewhat exaggerated the therapeutic value of antipyrin in this affection. The result of his observations is, that antipyrin, when employed at the commencement of the attack, exercises a favorable action on the course, duration and intensity of the disease.

In a great number of cases placed under this treatment the number of spasms was limited to six or seven in the twenty-four hours, and duration of disease did not exceed three or four weeks. But in no case was the disease really cut short by the employment of antipyrin. Besides, when the disease has arrived at a slightly advanced stage antipyrin does not give better results than some other remedies.

Acetanilide, which Sonnenberg found less efficacious, has given the author results relatively favorable. It is much to be preferred among the poor on account of the lesser price. The evil effects produced by the drug are a cyanosis, more or less intense, cardiac depression, and phenomena of collapse.

Phenacetin, so much praised by Dr. Katz, the author has found absolutely inefficacious.

In this disease Jacobi* has a strong and lasting faith in belladonna, having used it almost exclusively for over thirty years. After insisting strongly on isolation and hygienic treatment, he indicates the necessity of attention to any catarrhal conditions of mouth and pharynx. The latter indication is best met with chlorate of potash, half a grain to a grain every hour, in a teaspoonful of water. Expectorants also find their application here, but all those of a depressant nature should be avoided. Where there is considerable pharyngitis and laryngitis associated with the disease, the local symptoms will often do well under tr. pimpinella saxifraga; a drachm distributed over the twenty-four hours for a child two years of age. Chloral, 6 to 12 grains, serves well to give an occasional good night. Where convulsions are liable to occur or the circulation is much interrupted, chloroform inhalations, as often as may appear necessary, will only be productive of good. His chief reliance is, however, as stated above, on belladonna. This must be given to produce its full physiological action. This will be indicated by general erythema, or flushing and reddening of the face after every dose. The pupils seldom dilate. This is the reverse order of its effects in the adult. He has never found ill results from its use. The preparations used by him are the powder alcoholic extract or tincture. The tincture is preferable, as the dose may be more readily graduated and absorption is more certain. A baby of three years may take three doses daily, the first of which may be six drops. If the flush be perceptible in twenty or thirty minutes, that is the dose; if not, it must be gradually increased until its effects are produced. As the system becomes accustomed to the drug the size of the dose has to be constantly increased.

*Archives of Pediatrics.

†Rev. Mens. des Mal de l'Enfance.