

ON THE REMOVAL OF OPACITIES OF THE CORNEA BY MEANS OF GALVANISM.

To the Editor of The MEDICAL RECORD.

SIR: The purpose of this note is to call, or rather recall, the attention of the profession to the therapeutic value of the Galvanic current in the treatment of opacities of the cornea. Some cases I have now under observation appear to show that this application of electricity has been allowed to fall into undeserved desuetude. I cannot offer yet complete results of treatment to support this claim, but the following statement may serve to show that it is worthy of some attention. In February last I began to use the galvanic current for the removal of an opacity of the cornea, without knowledge that it had been so used before. The case was one of recent macula of both corneæ, visible at a distance of several feet. It has now wholly disappeared from one eye, and is barely discernible in the other, from which I expect continued use of the remedy to remove all trace of blemish and defect of vision. Another case, taken up a few days later, a kidney-shaped macula about two and a half lines in length, is now represented by a thin speck-like spot which the patient and her friends no longer see. This, too, is steadily melting away. Of the seven other cases under treatment, it will suffice here to say that they varied in size from that of a millet-seed to the whole circumference of the cornea, from a nebula to a dense white leucoma, and in duration from forty days to forty-eight years.

All of these cases are steadily improving, two of the most extensive maculæ being merely fragmentary remains of the original, while the corneæ elsewhere are quite clear. The rate of disappearance seems to depend chiefly upon the size of the opacity, which, like a heap of snow, melts away from the periphery towards the centre, the oldest but little more slowly than the most recent.

The method I have employed is as follows: One pole of the battery in the palm of the hand, the other upon the closed eyelids, ordinary sponge-covered electrodes being used. If the eye is or becomes in the least congested on the seat of pain, the anode should be placed there; otherwise the cathode should be used as the therapeutic pole, its action being more rapid, apparently. The strength of the current should not exceed three milliampères, and with sensitive eyes a strength of two milliampères is better. The sitting should

not extend beyond three minutes, unless the eye shows, after trial, unusual tolerance of the current; a five minutes' sitting sometimes irritates the organ. An application was made daily at first, but this was found to be too frequent—productive of irritation. Sittings are now held every other day without discomfort in any case.

A galvanometer and a smoothly-working galvanic battery are indispensable in this treatment. I am using Barrett's milliampère-meter and chloride-of-silver battery.

Very respectfully,

C. H. H. HALL,

Passed Assistant Surgeon.

U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL, YOKOHAMA, JAPAN,

Society Proceedings.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE— PEDIATRIC SECTION.

Meeting, June 27, 1888.

DIETETIC MANAGEMENT OF THE SUMMER DIARRHŒA (OF INFANTS.

With much pleasure he had accepted the invitation of the Chairman to give his views on this question, which was one to which he had given much attention, having had a large experience in the treatment of the disease in Philadelphia hospitals and private practice. When called to treat a case of this nature, his first question was: what food has the infant been taking? As yet he was quite unable to believe that even in acute cases it was necessary to take away the milk of the mother or nurse. They continue to suckle the child, but the administration of water is very useful, as the child is often thirsty. Stimulation is of the utmost importance. Brandy or whisky, a teaspoonful three or four times a day, or thirty drops in sweetened water every two hours. As to other food besides mother's milk, if the milk of the mother is faulty, the nursing must stop and the infant be fed artificially. On the other hand, if the mother's milk is apt to be good, it might be supplemented with one-half ounce of beef juice or wine whey. As to the dietetic treatment of the summer diarrhœa in hand-fed children, the first thing is that the food be carefully investigated. The best food for hand-fed infants is cows' milk; if it disagrees, put the infant on the exclusive use of beef juice.

Cows' milk contains about three times as much casein as human milk. When cows' milk is diluted, the amount of fatty material is reduced, and therefore cream and sugar should be added. To undiluted cows' milk, too, sugar must be added.