

of general bleeding in tropical rheumatism is rather an exception than the rule, as might be expected from the comparatively mild character of the fever and inflammatory symptoms.

To carry out further this indication, after a moderate bleeding, recourse may be had to ten-grain doses of nitrate of potash, given along with small doses of tartarized antimony and citrate of potash, three or four times day, in the form of effervescent draughts; or the nitrate of potash may be combined with nitrous ether and other diuretics; the intention in either case being to subdue heat and irritation, by restoring the normal excretory functions of the skin and kidneys. The utility of the nitrate of potash seems dependent on its power of diminishing the plasticity of the blood and suspending the metamorphic disposition of the blood globules to produce fibrine. Under its use the specific gravity of the urine is increased, this being a medicine which possesses the power of eliminating urea and other compounds of lithic acid from the system. Such power is probably increased by the combinations of the nitrate of potash with other alkaline compounds, as the citrate and acetate of potash, which are converted into carbonates in the course of the circulation. All such means, however, prove refrigerant by subduing the heat and irritability of the body; and the effect of such may be increased by the addition at bed-time, of anodynes, either opium or aconite.

Of medicines best adapted to carry on the second indication, calomel and Dover's powder at bed-time, followed next morning by a solution of sulphate of magnesia in compound senna infusion, with the addition of an alkali and colchicum, will be found among the most useful. Much misapprehension regarding the beneficial therapeutic action of the latter medicine seems to exist; some deeming its chief efficacy consists in its power of eliminating urea and uric acid from the system; while others deny to it any efficacy in subduing symptoms of true rheumatism. It is chiefly useful in cases of the acute disease, accompanied by a foul loaded tongue, biliary derangement, and intestinal mucous accumulation. Both our Indian and European experience has convinced us of the fact, that without its purgative effect being induced, the urinary secretion is seldom so much increased in quantity as to bring with it any considerable relief of rheumatic symptoms. The most beneficial mode of administering it in India is to give the wine of colchicum twice or thrice a day, in a weak solution of tartarized antimony, along with liquor potassæ, and tincture of the hydrochlorate of morphia. Free action of the kidneys and skin is thus kept up, and the feverish frequency of the pulse reduced; but, even in such a case, the use of purgatives, and the elimination of the biliary secretion, must not be neglected or lost sight of.—Where diarrhœa, or the purgative effect of colchicum is established, there the amount of urea and uric acid in the urine appears to be diminished; these compounds being eliminated, as it would appear, by the intestinal evacuations. Dr. Bidder, in a late minute examination of the action of various medicaments, with reference to the changes produced by them in the constituents of the urine, the exhalations of the lungs, and the blood, found that, contrary to the general opinion of pharmacologists, the use of colchicum produced but slight diuretic action, and had very little effect on the constituent parts of the urine. During its employment, the activity of the skin and lungs, in exhaling carbonic acid, is considerably augmented, and after a time its effects in causing an augmented secretion of bile becomes apparent; the melanotic blood globules, which are unable to combine with the oxygen of the air, being destroyed in the hepatic system, afford materials for an augmented secretion of bile. The result of his analysis, thir-