

the consent of the physician temporarily in attendance. The rules of Brand were strictly adhered to at the first onset of symptoms, with the result of complete subsidence of the fever in about six or seven days. I was rather skeptical of this being a case of typhoid until the other two cases developed. All four were subject to the same source of infection—well water in a country place. In another of these cases the bath treatment is being followed out, so far with marked success.

In only one case in which I made use of the cold baths was there a fatal result, and that was one which, from my present experience, I would hesitate in trying again, although the probabilities are I might do so. It was that of a man aged 21, who was admitted to the hospital on what he supposed to have been the fourth day of his illness, but must have been later, as there was present, on admission, slight broncho-pneumonia with traces of albumen in his urine. Respirations were rapid, as was also his pulse. Twenty-four hours after admission he was delirious, and twelve hours later subsultus tendinum was present. As the patient had not slept since admission, and was very restless, the cold bath was given, bringing the temperature down from 104.4° to 103, but quickly rising again, without much apparent relief to the prominent symptoms. Subsequent baths brought down the temperature on each occasion. He had seven baths in all during the space of four days, notwithstanding which he died of his lung affection, complicated with cerebral symptoms.

The contra-indications to the use of cold baths would be hemorrhage of the bowels, peritonitis, and a weak heart as manifested in the rapid pulse or feeble circulation. The latter might be overcome by the judicious use of quinine and other cardiac stimulants. To these contra-indications I may add the determined opposition of the patient to the bath. Mental excitement alone, we all know, in these cases, will cause the temperature to rise, and if we cannot prevail upon the patient to give his consent, there is but little use in trying these measures.

As heat abstraction is only one of the beneficial effects of the cold water, its action on the nervous system being probably the most important in avoiding the tendency to death. This it does,