

HOARSENESS—BORAX AND NITRATE OF POTASSIUM.

These two salts have been employed with advantage in cases of hoarseness and aphonia occurring suddenly from the action of cold. the remedy is recommended to singers and orators whose voices suddenly become lost, but which by these means can be recovered almost instantly. A piece of borax the size of a pea is to be dissolved in the mouth about ten minutes before singing or speaking. The remedy provokes an abundant secretion of saliva, which moistens the mouth and throat. This local action of the borax should be aided by an equal dose of nitrate of potassium, taken in warm solution before going to bed.—*La France Médicale*.

ADMINISTRATION OF CASTOR OIL.

The following method of administering castor oil is recommended by M. Potain, and described in a recent number of *Le Practicien*: An orange is cut in halves, and after removing the pips, the juice of one half is pressed out into a tea-cup. The oil is poured carefully on the top of this juice, and on this again the juice of the other half of the orange is squeezed out. The oil remains between the two layers of juice in the shape of a meniscus, and may be swallowed without any unpleasant taste.

TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA.—Commenting on a case of pneumonia in which speedy recovery had followed the use of ergot, Dr. Handfield Jones states that the action of the ergot seems to have been beneficial, though he does not attribute the cure solely to its agency. Ordinary pneumonia runs a determined course, the inflammatory processes terminating by more or less rapid defervescence about the sixth or seventh day from the initial rigor, while the exudation undergoes resorption sooner or later, according to the energy of the vital powers. Results which are therefore due in reality to the natural course of the disease must not be attributed to the remedies employed; moreover, any means which affect injuriously the strength of the patient, especially those which enfeeble the heart, must be carefully avoided. Though the disease cannot be cured, its severity may be materially mitigated, and life may in some cases be preserved. Ergot and liquor ferri perchloridi may check and control the inflammation, opium may allay the pain, and calm and steady the nervous system; bark and ammonia with wine may give tone to the failing heart, especially in the collapse of the crisis; effervescing salines, or brandy and soda-water with or

without a dose or two of calomel, may quiet gastric irritation, and enable the patient to take food better; quinine in large doses, or the cold bath may serve in dangerous hyperpyrexia. Dr. Jones believes that no risk should ever be incurred with the idea of cutting short the disease. He also finds that ergot has to a certain extent disappointed his expectations, when employed in the various inflammatory affections, and of those more especially in bronchitis.—*British Med. Jour.*

THE TREATMENT OF PULMONARY HEMORRHAGE.

The case before you is one which has just come in, suffering with hemorrhage, and reports having lost two basinfuls of blood by expectoration. What is the best means to pursue for the arrest of pulmonary hemorrhage? The very best remedy, in my opinion, is what we here constantly employ—Squibb's extract of ergot, or ergotine, as it is termed. Of this, as much as twenty or thirty grains may be given hypodermically, although so large a quantity is seldom necessary, and it will generally suffice to introduce five or six grains. It is exceedingly difficult to decide whether any remedy is efficient in this condition, since the hemorrhage constantly subsides spontaneously, and any drug that happens to be given at the time, of course, gets the credit; but the stopping of the spitting of blood so often follows the injection of ergot that I have no doubt that these cases are benefited by its administration. Another remedy is ipecac. It seems strange to use it in pulmonary hemorrhage, but it is one of the best means that we have. In causing nausea and vomiting it affects directly the pulmonary circulation. You should give enough ipecac to cause nausea, and be indifferent whether it causes vomiting or not. One of the dangers of the condition is that the blood will remain in the air cells and smaller tubes and close them, and thus set up irritation and further mischief. The administration of ipecac has the advantage of clearing the lobules, and at the same time it has an influence upon the circulation, which makes the vomiting entirely safe. He shall have—

R. Extract ergot, fluid, 3 ss-j
Extract ipecac, fluid, M v. M.

Every three or four hours.

Ice should be applied to the chest, and pieces of ice allowed to melt in the mouth. The patient is to be kept as quiet as possible, in a semi-recumbent posture. A very common household remedy is table salt, and it is not without effect, but ice is more valuable. A large piece of ice placed at the nape of the neck will sometimes succeed, especially if followed by hot water. The quick alternation of heat and cold produces