

rest, or prolonged lactation in the delicate female, or excess in venereal gratification, or onanism.

An unusual degree of debility, without derangement of any important function, generally characterises such cases. The importance of distinguishing them must be obvious; as without a removal of the exhausting cause, there can be little chance of reinstating the general power.

"The principle of treatment consists in promoting and maintaining a proper degree of constitutional power, by withdrawing the causes of exhaustion, by correcting error in important functions, by the use of a generous diet, and by the administration of tonic remedies; and at the same time in checking the local morbid action, by the alternative influence of mercury or iodine, and the aid of counter-irritation.

"Sometimes the disease occurs when the condition of the vascular system is too full; and under such circumstances, symptoms are usually more decided in their origin, more rapid in their progress, and attended with more local distress. The aspect of the patient and the state of the pulse can hardly fail to indicate to the medical man this state of plethora; and his endeavour should then be, to reduce the fulness of the vascular system, by a moderate abstraction of blood, by a spare diet, by a free action upon the mucous and cutaneous surfaces, and by quietude; and as soon as he has brought the action of the heart and arteries to the proper level, he should commence the alternative or mercurial treatment, and be careful not to continue the depletory treatment so as to reduce the general power below its ordinary standard; otherwise the alternative or mercurial will fail to produce the desired effect.

"Should the disease assume an acute character, as indicated by the symptoms which I have before described, abstraction of blood generally may be required; but it should always be taken away in moderation, only in sufficient quantity to diminish tension of the arterial system, should it exist; or locally, to relieve congestion of the affected organ, without influencing the general circulation.

"When decided inflammatory action, therefore, occurs, the treatment must be active, in proportion to the urgency of the local symptoms, and to the power of the patient. I have observed that the disease principally attacks those of naturally feeble constitution. If, then, depletion be requisite, the patient should be most carefully watched during its continuance; so that it may not be carried beyond the extent required to check acute symptoms, nor produce unnecessary exhaustion. In many cases, when the disease is apparently acute, but the power feeble, the loss of blood aggravates rather than benefits the affection. I have known the continuance of depletory treatment prove most injurious in augmenting morbid action, and hastening the disorganizing process, especially in young and delicate persons.

"Unfortunately, as relief from pain frequently follows the local abstraction of blood, the patient is desirous of resorting to such treatment again, upon every fresh attack or relapse; and the medical attendant, often unacquainted with its injurious effects, readily adopts it. The relief is, however, of short duration; another burst of acute symptoms soon occurs; the same remedies are again resorted to, with similar effect, by which the patient is again reduced in power, and the local disease makes further progress in disorganization. Under continuance of the treatment, the patient suffers from repeated attacks of an acute kind, each of which produces an increase in the amaurosis, and eventually vision is completely destroyed; and at the same time the general health is materially deranged, if not permanently injured.

"I have seen several very distressing cases of permanent amaurosis resulting from such treatment; and I have also known many instances in which the disease has been arrested and vision preserved, by raising and maintaining the general power, and pursuing the treatment which I have recommended, after many weeks of depletion had failed to check the morbid action."

From what I have stated above, as well as from the opinions quoted, it is obvious that the practitioner will be called on to exercise his judgment in the treatment of this disease, as regards bleeding, with much consideration; not resorting to it indiscriminately, because the parts are red and painful, if the state of the constitution forbids it, or again refraining from it, if symptoms and vigorous health justify its adoption.

After the preceding observations respecting the necessity or expediency of the abstraction of blood in this inflammation, the

diminution in quantity, or alteration in quality, of the circulating fluid by other means, requires less to be considered in detail; and the reduction of the action of the heart or capillaries, to be less discussed. The administration of antimonial medicines to cause nausea or debility, or any state approaching to it, is uncalled for, except in those very severe forms which I have said I do not consider entitled to the title of choroiditis, but they may be given with advantage in combination with mercurial medicines in moderate quantity, until the cutaneous secretion affords evidence of their influence in the system. Purgatives also as a means of depletion may be dispensed with, although required as a preliminary measure to remove intestinal irritation, and to arrest active nutrition. Considering the disease to be accompanied by a feeble or languid state of the circulation, and an inactive operation of the nutritive function, or even to be a consequence of this, denial of nutritious food cannot be sanctioned: what is called low diet or slops must not be thought of; although such reduction in quantity and quality of food as may be necessary to keep local inflammation within bounds may be permitted. I have, in treating of the other forms of inflammation, objected to the common practice of cutting off all supply of new blood, and leaving the system to be sustained by its old and exhausted fluids in these or any other inflammations; and I here again object to it. The supply of nutritious food may be suddenly and temporarily interrupted, on the same principle as that recognized when blood is drawn, but its continued denial is wrong, and more especially in the form of inflammation now under consideration. Low diet and slops are mischievous in another way. Their sudden substitution for the nutritious and digestible food previously in use, not merely interrupts but disturbs the functions of the stomach and alimentary canal, causing corresponding disturbance of the entire system, and consequently what may be called an unhealthy modification of the local inflammation. The practitioner called on to treat inflammations occurring in feeble and unsound constitutions must keep this in view whatever his opinions may be as to the necessity of active depletion.

In this circumscribed inflammation of the anterior part of the eye, ending in attenuation of the sclerotic and projection of the dark choroid, and occurring in persons of feeble frame or unhealthy constitution, mercury does not appear to exercise the same salutary influence that it does in other forms of inflammatory disease of this organ. The full administration of it to the extent of producing salivation, is not only useless, but pernicious, by disturbing general health, and interrupting nutrition. Smaller doses, however, given in combination with other remedies, appear to exercise a salutary influence; as with moderate doses of antimonial medicine at first, and with tonics subsequently. Three grains of the pilula hydrargyri, with about a tenth of a grain of tartrate of antimony, may be given three times a day for a couple of days, and then the same continued every night, with tonics or iodine in the course of the day. In fact, mercury as an alternative, and iodide of potassium, and bark or quinine, in such doses as may be necessary to correct the feeble or languid state of the constitution which accompanies the local disease. As the disease more frequently takes place in females, attention must be paid to the uterine functions, and it may be necessary to combine emmenagogues and preparations of iron with the other remedies, or to administer them in the course of the treatment. Iodide of iron appears to be an eligible preparation, giving about a grain three times a day in syrup, made according to recent pharmaceutical formula. Dr. Mackenzie recommends the arseniate of potash, the thirty-second part of a grain, three times a day. These remedies are, however, to be reserved for the chronic stage of the disease, or when it lingers or relapses.

When the black prominent tumours protrude, so as to cause great deformity, or to create pain by their bulk in friction against the eyelids, they may be punctured with a cataract needle, but not until inflammation has disappeared. The practitioner should not, however, place too much reliance on the practice. I have sometimes found them little reduced after repeated tapping, and have seen the operation followed by violent inflammation and suppuration of the entire eye. When the whole eyeball becomes enormously enlarged, irregular in form, and projecting so that the lids cannot meet over it, the question of freely opening, or extirpating it arises. From my experience in such cases, I feel inclined to suggest the bolder and more decisive measure of extirpation before the apparently less hazardous and destructive one of