

ing or modifying agent. If properly administered during the inflammatory stage it will seldom fail to cut the attack short, and if given at the very beginning, to abort it. If duly administered, it not only cuts short the present attack, but after a time it seems to reduce or remove the liability to quinsy in persons subject to periodical attacks of it. It would take a considerable deal of evidence to establish this last fact, but I have seen it sufficiently often to warrant my referring to it.

Its use in fevers, especially in those of an inflammatory character, has been found very advantageous. It reduces the temperature and produces a very soothing effect from its action on the skin. Whether it will act as an abortive in such cases, or not, if given sufficiently early, I have not yet ascertained, but have every reason to believe it would.

There is no doubt of its efficacy in erysipelas, especially in that form which is occasionally consequent upon vaccination, which I have seen it cut short in a few hours.

We have no better illustration of the efficacy and rapidity of the action of aconite than in common cold, "cold all through one," or "cold in the bones," as it is variously popularly described, when one feels as "if he had been put through a thrashing mill." Ringer (I think) states that one or two drops taken at bedtime will enable a person in such a state to rise quite well in the morning; and certainly in the doses I have mentioned it affords very speedy relief.

It relieves that disagreeable affection, ringing in the ears, in many cases after a dose or two, and is said also to remove earache.

In the acute stage of gonorrhœa, when there is much pain and uneasiness, it affords marked relief.

—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

#### PROPYLAMINE IN ACUTE ARTICULAR RHEUMATISM.

Dr. James L. Tyson, in the *Philadelphia Med. Times* for May 10, 1879, after referring to the testimony of European and American physicians concerning the value of propylamine, or trimethylamine, in rheumatism, adds:—

That its efficiency in the treatment of acute articular rheumatism has not been overestimated will scarcely admit of a doubt, in view of results where I have recently employed it. More extended observation and repeated trial, I am inclined to believe, will fully justify the merits ascribed to and the encomiums awarded it in this complaint.

An important prerequisite is, that the alkaloid and its chloride be *pure*, which is not always the case. The best which I have seen were from the laboratory of the Messrs. Nichols & Co. [now Billings, Clapp & Co.], of Boston, and that of the Messrs. Rosengarten, of Philadelphia, both being perfectly reliable preparations.

He gives the following account of two instances out of many in his own practice, illustrating the advantages of propylamine:—

The patients were females, between twenty and thirty years of age, and each was attacked, at different periods of time, with pain and swelling of the wrists, and in one the phalangeal and metacarpal articulations were swollen and sensitive. From thence the pain radiated to the elbows, the shoulders, the sterno-clavicular articulations, the chest walls, involving the intercostals (pleurodynia), causing considerable dyspnoea, wandering to the hips, sacrum, femoral fasciæ, knees, ankles, and feet, including the aponeurotic expansion on the sole and dorsum of each foot. The fever was intense, the pulse ranging from eighty-five to ninety, accompanied by redness and swelling in all parts implicated, with a hot, moist, perspirable skin. This was very nearly the condition of each. Finding that neither could tolerate any preparation of salicin or of colchicum, I resorted to propylamine, using the chloride, the rather disagreeable taste of the alkaloid rendering it objectionable to some; the latter being equally potential in this complaint, its slightly saline character leaving a not unpleasant impression on the mouth. It was combined as follows:—

℞ Propylaminæ chloridi . . . grs. xxiv.  
Aq. menthæ piperitæ,  
Aquæ, . . . . . ää fʒij. M.

Sig. A tablespoonful every two or three hours.

The dose of propylamine is six drops, similarly prepared and administered. Giving the chloride as above, two grains every two hours, and swathing all the joints in cotton batting, benefit was apparent in the first twenty-four hours. For the pleurodynia a weak sinapism was applied to the chest for fifteen or twenty minutes, followed by a warm mush cataplasm. These were alternated occasionally through the day. In the one case ten days elapsed, when I could pronounce my patient well; in the other, five days passed, when she was entirely convalescent. A tonic of quinia is advisable when rheumatic symptoms have subsided. No disturbance or appreciable influence was manifested in the therapeutic action of the propylamine, other than a gradual abatement of fever, pain, swelling, and all the distressing nervous concomitants of acute articular rheumatism.—*Boston Four. of Chem.*

#### NITRITE OF AMYL IN SEA-SICKNESS.

MR. CROCHLEY CLAPHAM, to whom is distinctly due the credit of introducing this remedy to the notice of the profession, again writes reminding us of the fact, and remarking that "with due attention to details he looks upon the drug as curative in at