

The treatment of these three types of diseases is essentially different. Thus, rheumatoid arthritis is a disorder of nutrition, degenerative rather than inflammatory, and dependent on impairment of proper nervous influence. Its course is progressive; it is never cured, and the most one can expect is to stop the onward march for a time. For this purpose, arsenic and iodine are the only drugs that seem to have any effect, and even these do not always accomplish their purpose. Iodine is best given in the form of an iodide, and not over fifteen grains a day are needed. Grasset thinks that bromine is also of service, and he gives a mixture containing, of iodide of sodium, grains ij., bromide of sodium, grains iv., and chloride of sodium, grains viij. He alternates this with a solution of gold and sodium. For the pains and acute exacerbations of the disease, phenacetin is useful. The diet should be rich and nutritive, and should contain meats, green vegetables, wines and milk. At the same time external medication, in the shape of baths, electricity, and hydrotherapy, is indicated.

In chronic rheumatism which follows the acute articular disorder, the course of the disease is different. Its progress is not steady, but by bounds, each fresh attack of acute rheumatism leaving further impress on the articulations. More can be done therapeutically for this affection. Medically, the use of the salicylates is to be recommended, both to help the chronic and to ward off acute attacks. Beaumetz speaks highly of asaprol, but we have found it unsatisfactory. There are some secret remedies, one of which "the Pistoia powder," has much popularity in France. It consists of powdered bulbs of colchicum, grains iij., bryonia root, grains j., betoine, grains vij., gentian, grain j., chamomile, gr. j. A powder containing these constituents is taken twice a day for a very long time; and herein lies the secret

of success in the medication of rheumatism. The anti-rheumatics must be used persistently for many months. Another plant whose virtues are much vaunted is the *fleur de feve*; but of its precise value Beaumetz admits he knows little.

But the essential cure for chronic rheumatism lies, after all, in external measures. Of these the most important is massage, next electricity, while the water treatment can be effectively combined with the other measures. Naturally the French speak of the springs of their own country, and of these Dax, Aix, and Bourbonne are the best. As to food and drink, Dr. Beaumetz does not altogether forbid wines, but recommends a mixed diet with vegetables preponderating, the bowels are to be kept open with laxatives, and the kidneys kept active by diuretic drinks, such as milk, white wine, etc.

In the third form of chronic rheumatism, the rheumatic diathesis, the treatment is essentially dietetic and hydriatic. By means of the thermal waters and a careful alimentary hygiene, excellent results can be obtained. Salicylate of soda, asaprol and phenacetin are useful in relieving pain. But it is warm bathing that seems to be especially efficacious. The results are due, it is now admitted, not to any special quality in the water, but simply because it is warm and abundant. As to the diet, it is necessary to avoid all ptomaine-producing foods as much as possible, and Beaumetz recommends approximately a vegetarian diet. — *Editorial N. Y. Medical Record.*

MAXIMS OF SUCCESS.—Dr. Jas. Syme gave the following advice, which has been extensively copied: 1. Never look surprised at anything; 2. Before stating your opinion of a case upon your second visit, ascertain whether your previous directions have been complied with; 3. Never ask the same question twice.