

I have stated that rheumatism is caused by a loaded condition of the system (by this I mean an excess of uric acid and urates), plus an exciting cause, viz., cold and dampness; this exciting cause occasions an explosion, as it were, in this way. That it not only shuts off all excretion by the skin, but also causes a congested condition of the internal organs which interferes with their eliminative action, particularly that of the liver, and hence you have the system suddenly charged with waste products, so that cold is essentially the exciting cause in producing this congested condition which prevents elimination as is evidenced from the fact that in tropical climates we find no rheumatism. Do you not always find a state of constipation in acute rheumatism, and is not purgation, combined with diaphoresis, the most satisfactory mode of dealing with this disease? As it is also, in my experience, the most efficient way of cutting short an attack of gout, and it is hardly necessary to say that the large class of dyspeptics which we come across daily are relieved most effectually by purgation—in fact elimination by the bowels and skin probably relieves more suffering and avoids more acute attacks of illness than all other forms of treatment combined. I have been in the habit for several years of advocating the theory that in order to enjoy good health it is, as a rule, not only necessary that the bowels should be moved daily, but that they should be freely moved daily, and I think that if this principle were urged to a greater extent than it is we would have much less rheumatism and gout, or, as I will take the liberty of saying, a marked diminution in cases of lithæmia in general.

## STRANGULATED MESENTERIC HERNIA.

BY J. BAUGH, M.D.

On November 8th, Ethel B., aged seven years, attended school as usual, ate freely of hazel and niggertoe nuts during the evening, and was put to bed apparently well at nine o'clock. Half an hour later she awoke and cried out that she had a pain in her stomach. She was given a teaspoonful of brandy and water, which made her vomit, and a messenger sent for me. At 10.30 I found the child lying on the lounge, her face pinched and pale, her pulse 140, and temperature normal.

The pain had entirely gone. I remained with the child about half an hour, observing her closely. All the symptoms of shock were present, and I thought it best to intimate to the parents my suspicion of some serious internal trouble, probably something in the nature of a twist or a perforation. They, however, felt quite sure the trouble was entirely due to an over-indulgence in nuts and candy.

A grain of calomel and soda was given as a placebo, and a dose of castor oil ordered to be given early next morning.

The child was restless all through the night.

At ten o'clock next morning her pulse was 160, temperature normal. The bowels were moved by enema, showing an abundance of undigested nuts. No pain or tenderness over abdomen, except on deep pressure. A little tympanites. Signs of continued shock becoming more marked, advised an abdominal section.

11 a.m. Consultation with another medical man, who would neither say what he thought as to the nature of the ailment, nor would he consent to an operation.

3 p.m. Pulse between 190 and 200, temperature 100½, child drowsy, but conscious when spoken to.

Drs. McCabe and Smith having been called in, an immediate abdominal section was decided upon and done.

A small coil of intestines, about fifteen inches long, had been forced through an opening in the mesentery and had become strangulated. Extensive adhesions had formed at the point of constriction which had to be broken down and the constriction divided, before the loop of bowel could be withdrawn.

The herniated portion of the bowel presented a greenish appearance, while on the proximate side of the constriction, for about four feet of their length, the intestines were jet black and gangrenous.

The intestines and abdominal cavity were washed well with hot water and section quickly closed.

Patient did not rally. Time of operation, twenty minutes.

*Remarks.*—It would seem that three days previously, while playing at school, the child was run