

really useful; and in the first place we will take the gravely threatening acute cases, such as those of the two children in the Belgrave Hospital, who have been already referred to. The boy, aged 6, is a remarkable monument of what the organism will endure from physicians. We were determined to test the power of succus conii to the utmost, and, commencing with 3 vj daily, we got up to 8 ounces daily of the succus without producing any more effect than as if so much water had been given. I wish particularly to mention that the preparation was got from three different and first-rate chemists in succession, so that there is no reason to believe that we were employing an inert specimen; indeed, I believe our house-physician proved in himself the physiological activity of the sample of which the patient took 24 ounces in three days. The same result happened with the girl who was under treatment at the same time; however, she never got beyond three ounces of the succus daily.

In the excessively severe case of the boy, we tried not only conium, but bromide of potassium, camphor, ol. morrhuae, and zinc in large doses, all with only momentary effect. We then tried Jaccoud's plan, which I have found extraordinarily successful in several cases: viz., we sprayed the skin over the whole length of the spine with ether twice daily. I will not positively say that it was *propter hoc*, but I will say that immediately *post hoc* the symptoms greatly amended, and in the course of a fortnight the lad was perfectly free from movements. We kept him in the hospital several weeks longer, in order to re-educate his speech, which was grievously deficient. But by the time he left the house he could speak quite well and manage all his limbs; nothing amiss remained beyond a slight tendency to grimace. The girl, with whom succus conii, camphor, ol. morrhuae, bromide of potassium, and large doses of zinc had entirely failed, began to improve immediately on taking liq. arsenicalis in 5-minim doses, afterwards reduced to 3 minims. I am convinced that in one of these cases death, and in the other a protracted and very serious illness, were avoided by the use of remedies; and I will just say here that arsenic as an internal remedy, and the ether spray applied to the spine, have given me solid results such as have been obtained by no other remedy. The ether spray stands somewhat intermediate, I suppose, between the ordinary shower-bath and the spinal ice-bags of which so much has been said. Cod-liver oil and iron, however, are very useful in anæmic and generally debilitated subjects. And there is a special class of cases connected with violent ovarian excitement, or complicated with epileptic tendencies, in which the bromide of potassium is invaluable, and is the one remedy:

In the terribly dangerous acute cases of young women, especially where there has been sexual excitement and exhaustion, I believe nothing does any good but freestimulation, regular feeding per rectum, and opium in large doses. I regret to have to express my complete distrust in chloral, and in a host of other remedies that have been proposed.

In the milder stages, and especially with a view

to the future bodily and mental health, there are a variety of precautions which ought to be adopted.

Under these circumstances we often get the first considerable improvement by the use of the shower-bath. This old-fashioned and useful remedy is a two-edged weapon, and if employed in cases where the nervous system is too severely disordered and prostrated may produce bad results; but in the milder and more chronic type of chorea it is still worthy of being called a sheet-anchor. It gives that preliminary bracing to the nervous and moral tone, without which we may fail to get a leverage for other treatment. There is no absolute necessity for beginning with cold water, and in delicate subjects it is better at first to use it tepid; but we can soon advance to the cold shower-bath daily or twice daily. The second item of treatment is the training of the muscular system. We can do much more good with this, in most cases, than with medicine, provided that the patient's nutrition is kept thoroughly good. This lesson has been particularly enforced by my colleague Dr. Radcliffe, who always insisted much upon the value of muscular exercises which require rhythmical movements. He used, in Westminster Hospital, to give the choreic children skipping-rope exercise; and this will be found a very useful thing either in the absence of means for more elaborate training, or as introduction to more studied and complicated movements. I may conclude by pointing out the necessity for careful training in speech, where that faculty has been at all impaired, and also of attention to mental education in every case. The mere cessation of the choreic movements ought not to make us consider that we have done our work; it is most important that a judicious system of education should be at once adopted to strengthen the mind, and especially the memory. And although every care should be taken to avoid harsh or unkind treatment, it is very needful that a firm and regular discipline should be established, for anything like slackness or vacillation on the part of the educator is sure to be reflected and exaggerated in the behaviour of a nervously weak child.—*Practitioner, June, 1874.*

ACUTE RHEUMATISM.—Immovable bandages.—Favorable results are obtained in acute rheumatism, as regards the pain, the fever, and the duration of the disease, by fixing the parts immovably, and so maintaining them not only until all pain and swelling have left the joint, but until the constitutional symptoms have disappeared, and especially until the temperature has returned to the normal standard. This may be effected by means of pasteboard, or for small children and restless patients by plaster of Paris. (Dr. Oehme.)

ON THE USE OF CYANIDES IN ACUTE ARTICULAR RHEUMATISM.

M. Luton of Rheims, in the *Bulletin Général de Thérapeutique*, highly recommends the use of the cyanides in the treatment of acute articular rheumatism. The two cyanides with which he has experimented are those of zinc and of potassium. The first is a white inodorous tasteless powder, insoluble in water, but probably