

abandoned ; but after a little time the kidneys resumed their function, the diarrhoea ceased, and the urinous odour disappeared, and ultimately the old lady got well. This case contrasts very forcibly with the one first related.

In all cases where the diarrhoea takes its origin in uræmia and the process is a compensatory and conservative one, our line of treatment is not to attempt to arrest the diarrhoea until the ordinary channel is once more patent. If the diarrhoea is profuse and tending to exhaustion, it is well to act freely upon the skin, especially by external measures, the warm bath, &c. Opium in all its forms is strictly contra-indicated here, despite its well-known action on the skin. At most, all that may be adventured in the way of checking the action of the bowels is the administration of iron, and the pernitrate with nitrate of potash has furnished satisfactory results ; while the attempts to restore the action of the kidneys by counter-irritation across the loins must be persisted in. During this time the patient must be supported by nutrient bland food ; milk and seltzer-water, sago and arrowroot with milk, or a little beef-tea or mutton-broth, are the best measures, care being taken not to give beef-tea in such quantities as to add further to the load of nitrogenized waste. Alcohol in small quantities is not inadmissible. The treatment must be watchful, and eminently conservative. No sudden *coup de main* is to be essayed ; but the case is to be carefully steered through its numerous difficulties, warily and skilfully indeed if a successful result is to be achieved.

Such is the line of treatment to be pursued in a large and most important class of alvine fluxes, especially met with in elderly persons. Whatever has been said here applies equally to the endemic diarrhoea, which is so commonly met with after scarlatina, when the kidneys are affected.

Finally, a word as to the external applications which may be resorted to in the treatment of diarrhoea. To relieve the pain produced by the peristaltic action, hot flannels wrung out of hot water, and sprinkled freely with laudanum or turpentine, or both, and applied across the abdomen, are very useful. Also enemata of starch and laudanum may be

resorted to with advantage in severe cases, provided opium is not contra-indicated. When there is much tenesmus, a morphia suppository is a comfortable thing ; and if there be any tendency to form hæmorrhoids, a suppository of morphia and gallic acid is indicated.

In the more persistent diarrhoeas of infants, accompanied by much wasting, and especially in that form described by the old word *lientery*—where the food is passed almost unchanged—rubbing the child all over with olive oil once or twice daily is an excellent measure. By this means nutriment is absorbed, and the child is fed, so that the system is often enabled to recover itself, and the diarrhoea is ultimately subdued.

As to those forms of intestinal discharge known as colliquative, as depending upon tubercular disease, or enteric fever, they cannot be entered upon in this article. The two first depend upon the general condition, and their treatment is part of the general treatment—matters too wide to be considered here ; while as to the third, it has been fully discussed in a recent number.—*Practitioner*.*

REMARKS ON CHRONIC DYSENTERY ; WITH THE HISTORY OF A CASE OF FIVE YEARS' STANDING CURED WITHIN FIVE WEEKS BY TOPICAL TREATMENT. — By T. Gaillard Thomas, M.D.

There are few curable diseases which offer a more unfavorable prognosis than chronic dysentery. The dangers which attend the affection in its most acute stages are greatly increased in that in which painful, hæmorrhagic, and intractable ulcers cover the surface of the rectum and colon, and exhaust the patient by loss of blood, constant pain, frequent evacuations, and the intense nervous depression which attends such cases.

The following case is related to show the wonderful results which, sometimes at least, follow local treatment in this intractable disease :

*In the first part of this article, in our last issue, for "a grain and a half of opium," the author evidently means "a grain and a half of *Pulv. Cret. Co. c. Opio.*, or *Pulv. Ipecac. Co.*"—Page 3, line 24.