

3. In many cases of remittent and intermittent fevers, the combination of the drug with chloride of ammonium or a salt of potash or soda is likely to be more easily tolerated, as well as more useful, than if it be administered in a pure form.

4. During the administration of quinine, should a headache come on or increase in intensity, the case requires the most careful attention.

NERVOUS DYSPEPSIA.

In persons of a nervous temperament, especially excitable women, we will frequently meet with a form of dyspepsia, not amenable to ordinary treatment. We recently had a case, in a woman, caused evidently by mental worry, in which there was great depression of spirits, a globus hystericus and a great oppression, with constant and violent eructations of wind, always greatly aggravated by eating. Antacids, pepsin, and a host of routine remedies, were useless; she was then ordered tincture of valerian and bromide of potash in small doses (ten drops of the former and two grains of the latter) every hour. The dyspepsia and nervous irritability commenced to yield after the second dose, and soon disappeared.

THE POISON OF RHEUMATIC FEVER.

Quite a lengthy article on this subject by Dr. David Thompson thus concludes in the *Lancet*, December 29, 1883:

"I am inclined to conclude that the poison of rheumatic fever is derived from without; that, though it arises under circumstances incompatible with the belief that it can be of malarious origin, as usually understood, yet it is not improbable that it may be a terrestrial aeriform emanation. And we have ample reason to show that, whatever be the nature of the poison, salicine and its compounds exercise such a beneficial action over it as to entitle them to be called specifics. Nor is the method employed by some, of giving it with a half belief in its efficacy, in small doses, of any utility; indeed, it is worse than not using it at all, for while it affords no relief to the sufferer, it at the same times brings discredit upon a remedy of great value."

A CAUTION ABOUT BELLADONNA PLASTERS.

One would hardly suppose that serious results could ensue from the application of a belladonna plaster, yet Dr. Martin J. Fleming reports a case of well-marked belladonna poisoning, relieved by opium treatment, in the *Medical Record*, January 19, 1884, caused by the application of a plaster to a back that had been somewhat denuded by the use of an irritating liniment. The case suggests the advisability of cautioning patients against applying such plasters over an abraded skin surface.

A NEW HAIR-DYE.

The disadvantages attending the use of hair-dyes containing lead, and the positive danger attending their use, have induced M. Naquet to search for a liquid which may be used for dyeing the hair and yet be innocuous. He describes, in the *Moniteur Scientifique* a dye which is said to have a progressive action, to produce all shades up to a deep chestnut-color, and yet to be free from all deleterious action. The base of the dye is bismuth. The following is the formula. Bismuth is dissolved in the smallest possible quantity of nitric acid—nearly three parts—and to this liquor a solution in water of tartaric acid, equal in weight to one-fourth of the bismuth used, is added, and then a large quantity of water, so as to insure thorough precipitation of the bismuth. The precipitate is filtered off, and washed with water until the washings have lost all acidity. The precipitate is dissolved in a solution of ammonia; and for this rather more than a fluid ounce of solution of ammonia will be required for each ounce of bismuth used. Hyposulphite of soda—three fourths of the weight of the bismuth employed—is then added, and, when the salt is dissolved, the mixture is filtered, and preserved in well-closed bottles. The dye should contain about one twentieth of its weight of bismuth. Such a mixture is said to form an admirable dye, which loses ammonia on exposure to air, and deposits sulphide of bismuth.—*British Medical Journal*.

THE ABSORPTIVE POWER OF THE SKIN.

Since drugs are frequently used by inunction, it will be interesting to read that from experiments made with salicylic acid, salicylate of sodium, and tincture of iodine, applied to the skin as simple solutions or in the form of spray and with mercurial ointment, Dr. Ritten (*Deutsch. Archiv. fur Klin. Med.*, p. 143, vol. xxxiv.) comes to the conclusion that the normal skin has not the power of absorbing these substances, either in a fluid condition or in the form of ointment or of spray, but that all substances which irritate the skin may produce, when sufficiently vigorously applied, a solution of continuity, and may then be absorbed from the altered skin.

INJECTIONS OF ETHER FOR SEBACEOUS CYSTS

Make the tumor tense by pressure and inject by a Pravaz syringe 5-10 drops of ether into the largest aperture noticed. Repeat every second day until inflammation is set up. Then puncture the base of the tumor, when pus will escape, followed by broken-down sebaceous matter, and the tumor is cured. This is the treatment recommended by M. Vidal in *Bull. Gen. de Therap.* November 30, 1883.