

Selected Articles.

TREATMENT OF INFLUENZA.

Dr. A. Jacobi, discussing the treatment of influenza in children, says :

Treatment.—There is no specific for influenza like quinine for malaria or salicylic acid for rheumatism. Innocent muriate of ammonium, also carbolate of potassium, sulpho-carbolate of sodium, carbolic acid, ichtyol and other remedies have been so recommended without the expected success. Thus, rational, hygienic and symptomatic and sustaining medicinal treatment only can be considered. A purgative dose of calomel should be given in order to clear the bowels of microbic and toxic ingesta, the bowels appearing to be the principal point of attack in young children. The patient should be kept in bed, the temperature of the room at 70 degrees F. or more at first, the diet should be scanty and fluid at first—milk, cereals, farinacea, water, lemonades and broths. The further development of the case will gradually indicate eggs, and perhaps—in a few selected instances only—alcohol in addition to other medicinal stimulants. It is more, however, a slow convalescence that requires it than the course of the disease itself. In this respect it appears to differ somewhat from other infectious diseases, particularly typhoid fever and diphtheria. In the latter, the doses of alcohol should be high from the beginning.

If there be a high temperature, cold water is not indicated either as a bath or as a pack. The irritating cough, which often requires opiates, is rather increased than soothed by it; the characteristic bronchitis of influenza does not bear it; the frequent copious perspiration contraindicates it and so does a weak heart under all circumstances. On the contrary, when there is much muscular pain and restlessness, a warm bath is often beneficial. Hot baths should be avoided unless a very short one in an occasional collapse, and Turkish baths require stronger heart-muscles than we are apt to meet in pronounced cases of influenza. While many common cases of pneumonia, with fair circulation, are apt to do well with cold packs, influenza pneumonias do better with warm ones.

According to Ditmar Finkler, of Bonn, quinine occupies a front rank. Out of eighty of his patients treated with quinine, only three made their appearance at the dispensary