

have done. In some cases where it was used, the emaciation produced by it was very great, and the effect upon the disease, though decided, was not sufficient to warrant one in persevering. I fear that this may appear a summary way of disposing of a medicine which has always had enthusiastic admirers, but I can only say that after giving it, what I considered, a fair trial, I have for many years discontinued its use, and now only employ mercurial preparations occasionally as purgatives. That mercury has a powerful effect in promoting absorption, no one can doubt; but this is not the only object to be aimed at in the treatment of the disease under discussion. A constitutional taint has to be guarded against, which is constantly manifesting itself in a number of ways, and which I believe can only be successfully eradicated in early years; and at the same time a languid assimilation of nourishment has to be stimulated. I fear that mercury will never prove adequate to this three-fold task.

*Leeches.* However useful the abstraction of blood may be in acute inflammation of the brain, I have never seen a case of dropsy of the brain even benefited by leeching. As cases have been adduced by authors to the contrary, I can only look upon the alleged benefit, as resulting from the counter-irritation caused by the leech bites. When used conjointly, with other remedies, I suspect they have been applied as mere routine.

*Mechanical Remedies.* Bandaging, or compression by other means, may be of use as an adjunct to the internal treatment by the Iodide. By itself I cannot think that it is likely to succeed, although several instances have been quoted to the contrary. Of course it can only be employed when the enlargement has reached a certain limit and has become stationary; and before the skull is ossified.

The method of treatment I am endeavouring to recommend, can be put in practice at any stage of the disease.

*Tapping the Skull,* has been successfully performed in a very great number of cases, but the number of patients who have had the operation performed unsuccessfully is I fear nearly as large.

I have never seen a case which required it, as under the free use of the Iodide of Potassium internally, and the Tincture of Iodine to the scalp, at the commencement of the disease, the enlargement has been checked, and though in many cases it remains stationary for some time, it has never in my experience failed to yield to the remedy.

The other remedies may be briefly discussed. Iodine has occasionally been given, but it is a difficult thing to induce children to take it, and is very apt to disagree with the stomach.

In conjunction with iron, I should think it most likely to prove useful, but have not yet had an opportunity (or rather have not seen the necessity) of using it.

Counter-irritation to the scalp, is a very valuable addition to the treatment, but I fear without the Iodide internally would not prove of much use.

*Cod Liver oil* I have also seen of use, and from the scrofulous nature of the disease, I should be inclined to give it a trial in the absence of the more powerful remedy I am bringing to notice.