

ing fecal accumulation near the anus, do so, for the effect produced by much over-distention of the intestine is bad.

A single over-distention of the bladder may be followed by a permanent weakness for the remainder of the patient's life, and that distention may not last more than eighteen hours. So a single over-distention of the intestine may greatly weaken the normal rhythm of that tube.

CONSTIPATION AND FECAL ACCUMULATIONS FOLLOWING FEBRILE DISEASES.

The effect of fever is to dry up all the secretions present in the intestine; consequently a very common complication, when a patient is making a recovery from pneumonia or any other disease in which fever has been a leading element, is an accumulation of fœces at different parts of the intestinal tube.

In former days, when fevers were treated upon the plan of administering medicines which were to eliminate the poison from the system by way of the bowels, scybalous accumulation did not occur very frequently; but now-a-days, when the treatment is conducted upon an entirely different plan, the fever may be continued and retained as the direct result of fecal accumulation. This is especially true of the latter stages of a fever; but such accumulation can be prevented from forming, and be removed by the use of a proper kind of cathartic.

For this purpose there is no combination more serviceable than the compound jalap powder, and it is the one which by all means should be employed. It promotes the discharge of the serous elements into the intestine, assists in the absorption of the deposits which have taken place in the lung, if the case be one of pneumonia; also acts upon the kidneys as well as the bowels, and is one of the mildest that can be employed which so fully meets the indications in this class of cases.—*New York Medical Record.*

TREATMENT OF CONSTIPATION ASSOCIATED WITH CHLOROSIS.

It was believed to be of nervous origin, and due to paralysis of the intestines; there was also spasmodic constriction of the intestinal tube. The result was complete relaxation and dilatation of the tube at one part, and stricture at another. It was maintained that there was associated with this condition either a deficiency, total suspension, or perversion of the alimentary secretions from the liver down; hence the pale color of the stools and the white viscid mucus that commonly coated the mucous membrane. The constipation being a nervous disease, and due to reflex irritation of the plexuses of nerves and their ganglia which have to do with the innervation of the circulation, the following plan of treatment was recommended:

First, operate upon the peripheral extremities of the nerves involved by means of external application. It was a well known fact that when the feet and hands were plunged into water, contraction of the ovarian plexus of nerves was produced; hence one of

the most natural methods for bringing about increased flow of blood to the uterus was to avail ourselves of the stimulation produced by dry heat applied to the feet and hands. It was believed that many cases of chlorosis could be mainly relieved by the application of dry heat to the feet, and cases were cited in which electricity, applied to the cervix and interior of the uterus, had failed, but heating the feet upon the stove for three hours every day had restored menstruation. Any of the irritant stimulants, when used for the special purpose of increasing arterial circulation, had precisely the same action as dry heat; that is, they stimulated the heart, hence increased the arterial current. In addition to the dry heat, wrapping the feet and arms in cloths wet in a solution of capsicum, and applying the same over the bowels, would be found to be of great assistance in overcoming the constipation.

It was recommended not to resort to cathartics until the measures just mentioned had been employed for some time. Of cathartics, aloes and rhubarb were said to be the most serviceable. The form most convenient for their administration was the compound rhubarb pill, and of those three might be given at night twice a week, or even every night until the bowels had been rendered soluble. Iron should never be relied upon unless used in conjunction with these two remedies. When the bowels had been rendered soluble, iron might be used; but all its preparations were precluded, with a *single exception*. The very best results were obtained by combining sulphate of iron with carbonate of potassa and nux vomica, as in the following prescription:

R. Potassæ bicarb..... 3 ss. to ℥ij.

Ferri sulph.....Gr. x.

Ex. nucis vomgr. x.

M. et div. in pil. No. xx.

S.—One to be taken after each meal.

In addition, it was desirable to have a pill which could be administered subsequently, whenever the bowels became confined. To restore innervation and rhythm to the muscular coat of the intestine were the indication to be met by such a pill. For that purpose there were two agents which could be employed—namely, belladonna and nux vomica. For the purpose of restoring intervention to involuntary muscular fibre, belladonna was regarded as the most serviceable. If the two remedies were combined with small doses of a real laxative or cathartic, it would be found that such small doses would produce free catharsis, whereas double the quantity would be required to produce the same effect if administered alone.

For the constipation under the circumstances alluded to, the following prescription was written:

R. Ext. belladonnæ.... gr. v.

Ext. nucis vom..... gr. x.

Ext. colocynth. co. 3 i.

M. et div. in pil. No. xx.

S.—One taken at bedtime.

If the colocynth griped, the griping could be prevented by the addition of ℥ij. of the bicarbonate of