

harm in this way. For example, one man's fits seem to have been increased by severe counter-irritation; and they soon ceased under a soothing plan.

Lastly, there is a further indication to improve the tone of the whole system of blood vessels. There are some cases in which we find a beating in the carotids and subclavians, and fits ensuing as a consequence, and we cannot perceive that there is any palpitation of the heart. It is not that the heart acts more strongly, but a loss of tone takes place in the great arteries. They become unduly large, and let the current of the heart's force into them in too great a measure, causing a determination of blood. This takes place in an atonic state of the system, and is generally connected with other symptoms of loss of tone, weakness of muscles, depression of strength, liability to flushings of the face, loss of power and heat in the extremities, and so forth. It is a great indication in such cases to improve the tone of the system; and it is under this head that we may notice the operation of what are called tonic remedies. This is a very large class; some of these remedies do not appear to be stimulant at all; they seem to have very little operation besides being tonic or promoting the tonic contraction of animal fibre. Such, apparently, is the operation of nitrate of silver, sulphate of zinc, sulphate of copper, and some others. These are amongst the most useful remedies in diminishing the tendency to these paroxysms; and I suspect they effect it in the manner I have just surmised.

But there is another class of remedies still more useful, and I believe they are more useful because they promote the restoration of the natural circulation in a double mode—I mean chalybeate tonics, mineral acids, bark, quinine, &c.; but none stand so high as the preparations of iron. They improve the tone of the blood-vessels, and operate as astringents. None is so useful under such circumstances as the tincture of muriate of iron. In other cases the other forms of iron may be preferred, but in these cases, where there is palpitation of the heart and failure of circulation, the muriated tincture of iron is the best I know. And there is another operation beside that of increasing the tone of the animal fibre, namely, the restoration of the proper quality and quantity of the blood; and by effecting this the inequalities of circulation are also reduced. I have stated in the present lecture that these inequalities are usually connected with anæmia. In proportion as that is removed, so the vessels are better filled with blood of a better quality—more abundant in red particles, and in proportion as it is better circulated to the extremities, less expended on parts near the heart itself, in that proportion will the tendency to these fits or other evil results connected with irregular circulation diminish. Hence we find that although by hydrocyanic acid, digitalis, and other means of tranquillizing the circulation, in the first instance we can best prevent a recurrence of these paroxysms, yet we produce a permanent cure best by the tonic class of remedies. They improve the tone of the body, the condition of the general circulation, and render the heart's action more effectual for this purpose.—*Medical Gazette*.

ECTROTIC TREATMENT OF SMALL POX.

We copy the following from our esteemed contemporary, the *Medical Examiner*—and we do so for the purpose of exhibiting, that if in the application of the tincture of iodine to small pox with an ectrotic view, any merit is due to the original experimenter, that merit may with full propriety be claimed by our townsman, Dr. Crawford; whose views were detailed in a paper submitted to the profession, in vol. 1, No. 1, of the *Montreal Medical Gazette*, the circulation of which would thus either appear to have been limited, or its contents to have escaped particular observation. We subjoin the extract from our contemporary, as also the paper

of Dr. Crawford, and we call the attention of our contemporary to it.—*Eds. B. A. J.*

Dr. Samuel Jackson, (late of Northumberland), was led in April, 1845, to make an experiment of aborting small-pox by the tincture of iodine, from contemplating its wonderful influence over erysipelas. He applied it to one arm of a child eleven months old, in confluent small-pox, on the third day of the eruption, and to the arm which appeared the worst, rubbing it freely on with a sponge, three times that day and twice the next. On the 11th day, when the pocks over the whole body were at their height, elevated with hard bases, those of the medicated arm were entirely flat, with thin, purulent matter under the dead cuticle, without any swelling of the part. There are, however, some very slight pits now to be seen, but they are very inconsiderable when compared with those on the other arm.

Drs. Goddard and Sargent have since tried the application.

Dr. Sargent used the iodine on one side of the face in twenty-five cases—"the swelling, soreness and tenderness were very much less than on the sides not covered; each pock remained flattened; but I cannot say that it prevented pitting."

Dr. Goddard writes that he tried the medicine in five cases—"not one of the patients shows the least pit or mark; none of them had been vaccinated, and the disease was confluent in most of them."

One advantage of this treatment, Dr. Jackson remarks, is, "that it removes the cuticle and leaves the part free from those disgusting discolorations which commonly remain for months."—*Med. Examiner*, Aug. 1846.

To the Editors of the Montreal Medical Gazette.

GENTLEMEN,—Will you do me the favor to give a place in the *Montreal Medical Gazette*, to a suggestion which I wish to offer to my professional brethren, in expectation, that with their co-operation, it will be found capable of conferring a valuable benefit upon the public.

It is briefly, the application of the tincture of Iodine (*form Magendie*) to prevent the unseemly consequences which attend small pox, and further to render the disease milder and less dangerous, by its peculiar antiphlogistic powers.

I have been in the habit of using this application very extensively, in a great variety of affections for some years; particularly in acute rheumatism, neuralgia and erysipelas, more especially that of the face; and have reason to speak of it in high terms of commendation. Erysipelas having been very prevalent in this city during the last four years, I have had an opportunity of treating a great number of cases, and although many of these appeared in imminent danger, all except one, (that of an old hospital nurse,) terminated favorably, and it is my conviction, that the mortality would have been much greater, had I not used this application. I would by no means exclude the use of constitutional remedies in this disease, which (although it especially shows itself as a peculiar local inflammation) is essentially dependent on a derangement of the general system; I have, however, on almost all occasions, seen such decided benefit result from its use, when perhaps little or nothing else has been done, that I would rather relinquish the use of every other application or remedy, than resign this one. A distinguished medical practitioner of this city, a short time since, admitted to me that he had not until lately done justice to this remedy, and that he now attributes any unsatisfactory results he had experienced on former occasions, to his not having properly and fully carried out its application. Although it is not my object at present, to extend this notice of its use in erysipelas, I must not omit mentioning, that I have, on many occasions, tested (contemporaneously,) the merits of the several local applications recommended in this disease, and I have no hesitation in assigning a superiority to it above all others. Observing this superiority, and at the same time the similarity in the modes operandi, of this application, and that of nitrate of silver, it occurred to me, to make trial of it in small pox; with the view of preventing pitting and scars, for which object the nitrate of silver has been so frequently used.

A severe case of variola confluenta being admitted into the Montreal Hospital, in the end of September last, on the second day of the eruption, which was attended by considerable tumescence of the face, the forehead and one cheek were painted with the tincture, the immediate effect of which was to cause a good deal of pain, which however subsided in a short time, and appeared