

times, and surrounded by the greatest carnage and danger, I have never lost my courage. But when I pass a little church in the depths of the forest, or near a deserted chapel on the mountain, I instantly think of an abandoned oratory that was in the outskirts of my native village, and I become frightened. I look around me and see in imagination the corpse of an assassinated wayfarer, just as I saw it when a little child, and with whose wandering spirit an old servant would threaten me." These terrors, these buggaboos of childhood, continues our author, remain through life, a fatal legacy, a chain enthralling reason. We remember them almost every day of our lives. A subterranean vault, the sombre arch of some bridge, the ruins of some abandoned dwelling with its mysterious darkness and silence—all bring back the atmosphere of infantine timidity. It is exactly as though the eye of the child again rested upon the very scenes. It is not the individual mother, nurse or servants who produce this effect—but the result of generations of wrong training, that have warped the human mind into fantastic shapes exactly as barbaric races have gradually changed the shape of the generic skull by ages of artificial compression. The children of Greece and Rome were frightened by tales of vampires which sucked the blood of sleepers, of cyclops and chimæras. This detestable mode of education has not vanished and our babies of to-day are still terrified by ogres and dwarfs, giants and griffins, dragons and demons, magicians and sorcerers. Every day we hear a mother or nurse say to a naughty child "Look out! Old bouger-man will catch you! Old bear will eat you up!" or some such blood-curdling threat, the effects of which will never die, and which in many instances render the child the father of the timid, nervous man.

THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATISM.

Dr. George L. Peabody treats his cases of acute rheumatism with a combination of salicylic acid and iron, the formula for which was obtained in the following way:

About a year ago a nurse was pouring into a common receptacle some remnants of different medicines, when she noticed that a black precipitate formed by iron was turned into a transparent solution of a rich red hue as soon as she poured the fluid contents of another bottle. Being a young woman of an inquiring turn of mind, she asked the house physician the cause of this phenomenon. The house staff, to help her in her desire for information, experimented with the drugs that she had been throwing out, and ascertained that her manipulation of chemicals had been this: She had first poured into the receptacle a salicylic acid. Into this she had poured a solution of iron, with the result of producing a black precipitate. To this she added some sodium phosphate, with the result of producing a clear red solution.

This at once gave a clue to the means of combining iron and salicylic acid without forming a precipitate. The facts were submitted to the apothecary of the hospital, and from them he produced the following formula, which has been in constant use nearly a year: \mathcal{R} . Acidi salicylici, gr. xx; ferri pyrophosphatis, gr. v; sodii phosphatis, gr. i; aquæ, $\bar{\text{z}}$ ss.

This method of giving this drug in rheumatism has now been fairly tested. It may be said to agree as well with the stomach as any other, and it has the great advantage of not being followed, even if its use be long continued, by the severe anæmia that so often follows the use of salicylic acid, if it be given without iron.

The dose which is described in this formula is given every two hours until improvement justifies a diminution in the frequency, or until constitutional effects are pronounced.—*Medical News*.

SMALL DOSES.

BY JOHN AULDE, M.D., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

That there is a tendency on the part of physicians to discontinue polypharmacy, and depend more and more on single remedies (specific medication), and prescribe smaller doses, no one will contradict. The innovation is commendable, and is one of the most promising features of the times. As a compliment, then, to the paper on "Large Doses," which appeared in the *Reporter*, Nov. 5, 1887, * I beg leave to submit the following remarks:

In certain heart affections, such as cardiac dilatation, one or two drops of the tincture of digitalis may be given three times daily with great benefit. Cardiac hypertrophy, on the other hand, may be materially overcome by the exhibition of one-drop doses of aconite tincture three times daily. Acute inflammatory conditions, like tonsillitis, bronchial catarrh, and threatened pulmonary congestion, as well as headache due to arterial tension, are immediately and favorably affected by drop or half-drop doses of tincture of aconite every hour, or half-hour, for a few hours. Frequently, headache of the congestive variety, with a band-like feeling around the forehead, may be quickly relieved by drop doses of nitro-glycerine, at intervals of five or ten minutes, until five or six drops are taken. The form known as "sick headache," dependent on a bad condition of the stomach, will often disappear in half an hour, under the influence of two grains of potassium iodide dissolved in water, and taken in divided doses at from three to five minutes. Like aconite and nitro-glycerine, gelsemium occupies an important position in cases of this class, but its uses are not so well recognized as that of the other drugs named.

Belladonna, or its active principle, atropine, in doses of one two-hundredth of a grain, is a valu-

* Also *Peoria Medical Monthly*, November, 1887.