

THE HYPODERMIC INJECTION OF DIALYZED IRON IN CHLOROSIS.

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The girl has improved vastly under treatment. She is getting plenty of rest and good food, but she had them both in abundance before she came to us. Her rapid improvement is altogether due, I think, to a new remedy which I am employing in a very novel manner. I refer to the rapid introduction of iron into the girl's system by means of the hypodermic needle. Why has this not been practicable before the present day? Because it has been well-nigh impossible to obtain a non-irritative form of iron for hypodermic use. The tartrate of iron, although one of the mildest forms, is entirely too liable to cause irritation and abscesses. Lately a new preparation of iron, the dialyzed iron, appeared in the market, which, it is claimed, is neutral and non-irritating. It struck me at once that this was just the thing to be used in my proposed hypodermic injection. I have been using this dialyzed iron hypodermically in this case for the past few days, and it has come fully up to its reputation. There have been none of the usual after-effects of iron, such as costiveness and disordered digestion. All these are done away with. I have been giving daily hypodermic injections of fifteen minims of pure dialyzed iron. The iron was diluted at first, but, experiencing no unpleasant after-effects, the assistant has, for the past day or so, been using the dialyzed iron undiluted. For the last four days the girl has had a daily injection of fifteen minims. The scars marking the spots where the needle has been introduced show no sign whatsoever of inflammatory action. To-day the patient shall have an injection of twenty, to-morrow of twenty-five, and on the next day of thirty minims of the pure, undiluted iron. I think we are going to gain in therapeutics by this case. I certainly expect to find a very rapid change for the better in the girl's condition in the course of the next five or six days. I will bring her before you again and report progress on Saturday next. Between now and then I will see that her blood is carefully examined under the microscope by an expert.

[The girl was again brought before the class

two weeks afterwards (February 23). She showed the most wonderful improvement. Dr. Da Costa said, "You will remember that when I last brought this case before you the blood-murmurs were distinct, and that there had been no menstrual flow for the space of three months. The daily injection of thirty drops of the dialyzed iron under the skin of the girl's arm has not caused the least irritation. Her digestion is admirable, and, what is most wonderful of all, she has menstruated during the past week. Her strength is so much better that she wants to go right home. You see how the colour is coming back to her lips, gums, and tongue. Another evidence of her very marked improvement is the 'venous hum' which was so loud and marked two weeks ago, is comparatively distant and faint this morning. I am convinced of the most positive and marked improvement in the case. The temperature is normal and steady. She feels well, her appetite is good, her bowels regular, and her headache all gone.

"I consider the case as practically cured.

"Do I think that we should have had such a rapid cure, and one so unattended with constipation and indigestion, if we had given the iron internally? I think not. You see, therefore, how excellent a method that by hypodermic injection is when the stomach will not retain the iron. Where the stomach will retain slight quantities of iron, we might give a little of the drug by the mouth, and the bulk of it hypodermically.

"Knowing how the iron thus introduced has acted here, we might with advantage employ this treatment in cases of pernicious anæmia. I say we ought to retry the use of iron in pernicious anæmia,—try its use hypodermically. The only reason, perhaps, that it has thus far failed to do good in that disease has been because of the great digestive disturbances attending its use."—*Dr. DaCosta, in Philadelphia Med. Times.*

OBITUARY.—Dr. James Blundell died last month at the advanced age of 87. Fifty years ago he lectured on Midwifery at Guy's Hospital. The Count de Kergaradec, discoverer of foetal auscultation, died lately in Paris at an advanced age.