

practical experience, and that it was appropriate to the treatment of some large stones was the conclusion to which all agreed, whether speaking from theory or practice. Some opinions of the highest value were expressed by Mr. Lund, Sir Henry Thompson, and Mr. Cadge. A good deal of time was spent in discussing the effect of the distension of the rectum on the anatomical position of the bladder and peritoneum, and some divergence was found in the results of experiment; but we cannot help agreeing with Sir Henry Thompson, that the practical convenience to the operator of a steady base upon which to work, and his ultimate success, must be the final test of the importance of the anatomical question.—*British Med. Journal*.

COCAINE IN THE TREATMENT OF DYSENTERY.
—Dr. J. E. Winters reported the following case at a meeting of the N. Y. Clinical Society:

A boy, three years old, had been ill three weeks with dysentery, followed by ulceration of the rectum. The degree of inanition was such that the child was literally *in extremis*—unconscious; the extremities, ears, nose, and chin cold, urine retained, tongue beefy, fissured; lips cracked and covered with dried blood, and sordes on the teeth. He could not be induced to take any kind of nourishment, not even water. Notwithstanding this extreme exhaustion—loss of vital power—there was almost constant straining, and every quarter to half an hour a discharge of pus and mucus. Everything that could be thought of that would tend to control the disease, in the way of medication, alimentation, and hygienic management, had been tried, and particularly for the control of this one distressing and wearing symptom, tenesmus. When the respirations were but six to the minute this straining continued. Opium locally, hypodermatically, or by the mouth, had but little effect. As a last resource I retried cocaine. Ten drops of an eight-per-cent. solution were put in one drachm of water and gently injected into the rectum. In a few minutes the straining lessened; soon it was stopped altogether. The effect lasted two hours. Then twenty drops of the same solution in one drachm of water were injected. This controlled

all symptoms for five hours. From this time twenty drops of an eight-per-cent. solution in one drachm of water were injected every four, six, or eight hours, according to symptoms, for two days. It never failed in its action. No other remedy was used after the first injection of cocaine. The boy was now well.

A second case had been seen by him at the college clinic. A child, who had been treated for ten weeks for dysentery, was brought to him. He had had five movements before ten o'clock that morning, and had been having from ten to fifteen daily. The same method of treatment acted equally well.

In a third case, which had been brought to him for rectal ulceration following dysentery, he directed that the rectum should be washed out, and then the cocaine injected and the patient kept in bed. At the end of a week he was perfectly well.

He believed that the first case, which occurred in August last, was really the first in which cocaine had been used for the treatment of dysentery. In the early treatment of this disease he thought that cocaine was much better than opium or astringents. No bad results had followed its use in any of the cases above reported.

Dr. Holt believed that the suggestion was a valuable one. He had tried the method of treatment by injections in several cases, but had found that the tenesmus was usually so great that the fluid could not reach the disease when highest. In a number of autopsies which he had made, the rectum and descending colon were found nearly normal, while in the ascending colon and cæcum lesions were found. He thought that cocaine might have proved useful, but could not understand how cocaine applied to the rectum would reach the disease higher up. He had been able to inject only about two ounces of water, with twenty grains of tannin, as patients could not retain more.

Dr. Wright had always felt that the greatest benefit could be derived from any remedy which would control the tenesmus, as each time the constant desire to strain was yielded to added something to the disease.

Dr. Kelsey congratulated Dr. Winters on this successful use of cocaine. He had found