

us that his difficulty lies not so much in his inability to take in air, as to expel it. Asthma is sometimes secondary to bronchitis—hence some writers divide spasmodic asthma into two divisions, *idiopathic* and *bronchitic*. A broader division is indicated by *idiopathic* and *symptomatic*. To be able to class any individual case in one or other of these divisions will afford some definite data for treatment. The purely spasmodic case, if such there be, will require management differing from that classed as bronchitic or symptomatic, and *vice versa*. Sight should never be lost of the fact that asthma is often the result of reflex action, the seat of origin being the brain, lungs, stomach, or other organ, frequently requiring for its location much patience and skill. From these observations it will be seen that the proper diagnosis and treatment of asthma is not by any means so light a task as many seem to think. The observance of these, and other points that will readily occur to the thoughtful practitioner, would do a good deal towards lifting the treatment of asthma out of the domain of empiricism, which has always been its bane, to a basis as rational and scientific as that on which rests the treatment of many other disorders.

As to the remedies recommended in the books for this disease there is no end. With no intention of depreciating the value of several old and well tried remedies, we shall now only refer to agents which have recently forced themselves to the foreground. Of these perhaps citrate of caffeine stands first. The dose is one to five grains, dissolved in warm water. It does not appear to be a very dangerous agent, since, in one instance, a patient took 60 grains by mistake, without fatal consequences. Caffeine is said to afford very prompt relief. Arsenic, in the form of 2 or 3 minims of Fowler's solution is reported as making striking cures in appropriate cases. Arsenic has the peculiar property of supporting respiration, as, for example, in making ascents. Its beneficial effect in asthma is no doubt due to this property. Iodide of potassium, is sometimes combined with Fowler's Solution. A valuable combination in the bronchitic form is iodide of potassium, and carbonate of ammonia. Chloral hydrate, either alone or in combination with bromide of potassium, is also followed with excellent results in certain cases. In the form of stagnant respiration with congested

lips and nose, and cold extremities, strychnia has been found highly useful. The liquor may be given in doses of from 3 to 5 drops with dilute phosphoric acid. When defluxion from the mucous surface is very profuse, belladonna probably answers best. Medium doses should be given every 4 hours. Grindelia robusta a short time ago was largely used; but failed to come up to expectations, and is now much less used. Quebracho is also a remedy in much repute. We occasionally meet cases of continued distress despite the use of ordinary means. In these cases there is usually much bronchial tumefaction and dryness. In cases of this class nothing can equal one-fourth grain of pilocarpine, with one-fourth grain of morphine, administered hypodermically. The relief is prompt, the tumefaction subsides, and is followed by profuse expectoration. As to change of climate, experience shows that the asthmatic should not seek a dry atmosphere, such as that of Colorado, and the West generally. On the contrary, a warm, moist atmosphere is the most suitable. In mild cases a mere change from one locality to another may create immunity from this harrassing trouble.

THE PREVENTION OF CHOLERA.

With the advent of Spring and summer, the invasion of cholera may be looked upon as one of the probabilities, and therefore the authorities should set about preparations as actively as possible for its prevention. There may be still some doubting Thomases who cannot believe that sanitary measures are of any avail to protect the people from these so-called visitations of Providence. We trust however, that the authorities will not be influenced by any such foolish notions, but will put into vigorous action all the sanitary resources of the country, with the view of stamping out the first approach of cholera to our shores.

If anything were wanting to show the great value of sanitary measures in stamping out this scourge, it will be found in the experience of the city of Genoa, during the prevalence of cholera in in France and Italy. The United States consul at Genoa in a communication to the Home Government on this subject, gives the methods adopted there from which are transcribed the following:

He says: "Since the outbreak of cholera at Toulon and Marseilles a continual purification of