

The well-known benefit arising from the lavage enables some patients to lead a reasonably comfortable existence without further treatment save the adjustment of the diet to the needs of the patient, and amount and variety being determined by the information gained from examining the gastric contents. Besides this, every effort should be made to improve the general health and innervation of the patient. It is commonly observed that these victims continue to do fairly well so long as they do not overwork, and so long as they in other respects lead exemplary lives. Every excess, every over-strain, long-continued cold, or damp weather depresses them, and food stagnation with its train of symptoms supervene.

What I consider as an essential of treatment is gastric faradization. The external application of electricity is useless, and the supposed benefits a delusion. Of the several contrivances employed for discharging the current so that it will directly influence the gastric walls, those most commonly used are either Einhorn's or another first described by myself in 1887—where the button can be swallowed by the patient more easily than the tube, and where emptying the stomach is unnecessary. Dr. Einhorn's instrument is perfectly satisfactory. Personally, I generally employ the other form of instrument. The faradic current with a good coil and a large battery, producing a stimulating current, succeeds best in improving the muscle strength. When there is much irritation or catarrh, it may be necessary to use the continuous current. Either form is potent in re-establishing the gastric secretion.

Something is to be gained by drugs in certain instances, but their field of usefulness is limited. Hydrochloric acid on the one hand and alkalis on the other are beneficial. Sometimes large doses of nux vomica and physostigma assist. Antiseptics accomplish little. The diet varies much in different cases, and should be as liberal as practicable under the circumstances. The meals as a rule should be far apart, and the study of the stomach contents a few hours after the ingestion of food should be the guide as to the amount and character of the food allowed. Patients generally lose flesh during the course of active treatment by lavage, but after improving the local conditions and discontinuing the treatment the gain in flesh and in other respects is sometimes astonishing and almost invariably satisfactory.

Reports of Societies.

ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from July number.)

EVENING SESSION.

The first paper of this session was read by Dr. J. E. Graham, the amphitheatre of the Normal School being well filled by medical men, lady practitioners and students in medicine. The subject of Dr. Graham's paper was "Some Remarks on Chronic Diseases." He made special reference to Bright's disease, the anæmias and tuberculosis. Treatment of these cases required a great deal of patience and tact. Strict attention should be paid to the patients diet, clothing, and general environments. Cases of parenchymatous inflammation of the kidneys were quite amenable to treatment. Prognosis was fair even after œdema occurred, even in apparently chronic cases; he knew of one case in which, contrary to the general teaching, the patient did best on nearly a complete meat diet, after having tried the milk diet with unsatisfactory results. Regarding anæmia, the gastric form, he had seen helped very much, in fact, cured, by lavage of the stomach every second day and the exhibition of arsenic. In another case of a woman aged 65, with a dilated heart, who had nausea, vomiting, diarrhœa, and considerable emaciation, accompanied by elevation of temperature, making the case suspicious of being one of pernicious anæmia until the blood corpuscles were counted and found not diminished in numbers. It was found that there was a diminution of urea in the urine, although no albumen nor sugar were present. Here the anæmia was due to the poisoning of the urea. Rest, careful dieting, administration of iron and arsenic produced a great improvement. Cases of other varieties of anæmia were referred to where treatment, based on a careful observation of the condition present, led to recovery. Regarding tuberculosis, most patients must be treated at home, and this could be done very satisfactorily by attention to the above-mentioned precautions, particularly in the first stage. As to medicine in these cases, he recommended the use of creosote as being the most helpful. The points to be observed in treating all chronic affections were, first, the necessity of more hopefulness in treatment; second, greater care to make an early diagnosis; third, to make a practical use of all the more recent discoveries in pathology and management of such diseases.

Dr. Bruce Smith followed, and pointed out very good results that followed examination of the stomach contents. He also referred to the causation of anæmia, and in its treatment he knew of