

Tuesday, March 14th, 1871.

Dr Sullivan said that scarlet fever, like the rest of the exanthemata running a definite course and usually of an epidemic character, is therefore neither curable, nor can any regular form of treatment be followed, as so much depends upon the constitution of the individual, the character of the epidemic, and the complications which exist. I would suggest, that instead of following a routine of treatment or the puzzling subdivision of nosologists, that every case, no matter how simple, should be carefully watched and the tendency to this or that form of death obviated. If the epidemic was of an inflammatory type, with high fever, furred tongue, with scanty and deep red urine, he would give an emetic even if vomiting had taken place, then a purgative of calomel, rhubarb, and soda bicarb. His reason for giving calomel is that it has been recommended as a prophylactic, by several German authorities, the rhubarb as most suitable to the state of stomach, and the soda to correct the acid and scanty condition of the urine. He would also give a diaphoretic mixture, with warm or vapour baths, tepid spongings, a well ventilated and warm room, if in winter, a pot of warm water placed on the stove will give the necessary humidity to the air, the application of a flannel pad wrung out of hot water to the throat, followed by a liniment of camphorated oil and turpentine. He would prefer the hydrochloric or nitric acids mixed as Dr. West recommended, with honey. Ice, as recommended by Dr. Jackson, and finally greasing the skin with fat of bacon, as recommended by Schneimann, of Hanover. In the typhoid or malignant form, he would give the treatment for typhoid fever, a gentle laxative and an early resort to stimulants and tonics, usually pot. chlor., in infusion of cinchona, or Dr. Watson's prescription of pot. chlor in hydrochloric acid, with a view to supporting the restorative powers of nature, and by its arterializing power, arresting the low form of ulceration, or the chlorate may be combined with carbonate of ammonia. As a stimulant, port wine or brandy, broths or beef tea, and no milk, unless an infant at the breast. To produce active diaphoreses he would advise the application of hot bottles, as recommended by Dr. Andrew Wood, also the muriate of ammonia, as recommended by Dr. Witt, as a specific, which he states acts by ridding the coagulability of the blood and nitrate of potash, in full doses in mucilage. In the hæma-