

dropsy; it conduces to sleep by allaying the irritable itching of the skin, and gives a sense of coolness which many patients highly appreciate, especially in the early period. The oil prevents the free access of air to the skin, and may thus attenuate the virulence of the contagium. If properly carried out there are no dangers in the treatment. In no case has it

produced any unpleasant symptoms. The carbolic acid has not been absorbed so as to affect the urine. Last December I was informed that Dr. Taylor, of London, wrote a little book over twenty years ago, in which he advocated the inunction of suet and lard in the acute stage of scarlet fever. Not having seen the pamphlet, I am unacquainted with its details.

DIET, NATURE AND ALCOHOL IN DISEASE AND ITS PREVENTION.

ALTHOUGH relating to the cure as well as the prevention of disease, we are tempted to extract the following from the New York Medical Times; a most welcome exchange and one of the most "liberal," advanced and practical that we ever have the privilege of reading. They are given in the "Times" in relation to Homœopathy and other "pathies," in reply to the enquiries of a correspondent.

It is true that the cure of many diseases is aided by medicines; and equally true that many diseases are cured in spite of them, by that determining, animating principle which presides over the destiny of organic life, the Unconscious. We hold to the doctrine of medical thinkers of all ages that Nature, or the powers of the Unconscious, alone possess the beneficent and marvellous power to heal our wounds, and to remove or cure our diseases, the agents and appliances of the medical art aiding or hindering these vital processes according to the degree of wisdom with which they are made use of.

In its popular sense, however, "cure" has a meaning altogether different. The power to cure is, in popular phraseology, invested in the doctor, and various other persons for that matter, and curative virtues are attributed

to drugs and other agents and measures, homœopathic and non-homœopathic, physical and psychical, because curative results follow their administration and application—the true and infallible power and source of all healing being ignored or overlooked, viz., the powers of the Unconscious. In discussing the means and methods of curing disease, therefore—of "obviating the tendency to death," and restoring the sick to health, we should fail of being understood did we make use of the term *cure* in any other than its popular sense.

ALCOHOL IN SEPTICÆMIA, DIPHTHERIA AND CHOLERA INFANTUM.

One of the most desperate cases of puerperal septicæmia that ever came under our observation, made a good recovery by the free use of alcohol. During three weeks, with a temperature falling now and then to 95° and rising to 107°, the patient was nourished by whiskey and water exclusively, and was constantly bathed and swathed with alcohol. Other antiseptic measures were used, such as vaginal douches of the hydrargyri bichloride and the carbolic acid spray; but the central element of treatment was alcohol. This was continued until all evidence of sepsis subsided.

Alcohol, we make bold to say, is the prince of antiseptics and the most per-