

of *propter hoc*; but we feel warranted in affirming that the arrangements instituted could not have been more complete, nor the means employed better adapted to the desired end.

The two cases before described, occurred before a *cordon* could be conveniently instituted. The natural conclusion *prima facie* deducible perhaps is, that they occurred in consequence of the neglect of precautionary measures. But, from the circumstances of the seizure, in both cases, I believe it probable they would equally have occurred, notwithstanding the most rigorous exclusion of all communication from without. In the history of cholera in the English asylums, during 1848-9,* not a single patient is reported to have been attacked through the medium of contagion; the disease usually broke out simultaneously in various parts of the building and grounds, and frequently in the cleanest and best ventilated galleries, and among the most quiet, clean, industrious, and respectable patients. In some cases, moreover, no cholera existed at the time in the neighbourhood.

[To be continued.]

Royal Lunatic Asylum, Perth, October 1854.

ARSENIC A REMEDY FOR CHOLERA.

By C. BLACK, M.D., F.R.C.S., etc.

CONSIDERING the prevalence of cholera at the present time, and the fearful mortality which has hitherto attended the different methods of treating the malignant form of that disease, it is, I conceive, the duty of every medical practitioner to lay before the profession any mode of treatment which, from his own experience, is calculated to effect the greatest number of recoveries. It is owing to this conviction that I now invite the attention of the profession to the treatment of diarrhoea and cholera by arsenic. For some time past, diarrhoea and English cholera have prevailed in the town of Chesterfield and its neighbourhood to a much greater extent than in former years. The attacks have been unusually severe, and characterised, in many instances, by that want of amenability to the treatment of ordinary remedies, which is seldom observed except in the more inveterate forms of the above diseases. Still, not a single case of Asiatic cholera has as yet occurred. In a number of cases, however, considerable collapse, cramps of the extremities and abdomen, urgent vomiting, and bilious diarrhoea, quickly followed by rice coloured dejections, were present; but certainly not to that extent which would justify our classing them under the head Asiatic Cholera. In about one-third of the cases, commencing as simple diarrhoea, dysenteric symptoms supervened in twenty-four or thirty-six hours; and thenceforth such cases manifested the characteristics of dysentery.

From the failure of the remedies already in vogue to arrest these cases, from the belief that many (not all) of the cases of English cholera are produced by the presence of a poison in the blood, and from the known power of arsenic to counteract the effects of the poison introduced into the circulating current by the bites of venomous serpents, I was induced to try it as a remedial agent in the treatment of diarrhoea and English cholera. I have now exhibited it in twenty-five cases; of which sixteen were English cholera, four simple diarrhoea, and five diarrhoea passing into dysentery after the lapse of twenty four hours. Six of the cases of cholera, and two of diarrhoea, had resisted the ordinary treatment by astringents, anodynes, carminatives, etc.

Of the sixteen cases of cholera thus named, fourteen quickly recovered under the arsenical treatment, one was not benefited, and one died. The one not benefited occurred in an aged female, who for the last two years had been subject to frequent attacks of diarrhoea. The case of death

occurred in an infant six weeks old. It had suffered for two days before I was consulted, and was in the last stage of exhaustion when I first saw it. Although it had vomited and purged almost incessantly to the time of my first seeing it, yet both these symptoms subsided after the first dose of Fowler's arsenical solution, and did not again occur. There was an attempt on the part of the system to rally; but reaction could not be maintained, and the patient sank four hours after I first saw it. This case, therefore, notwithstanding its fatal termination, offers, in my opinion, good proof of the value of arsenic in cholera. Of the fourteen successful cases, the vomiting was permanently arrested in six by the first dose of the arsenical solution; and in all a manifest improvement, with respect to both vomiting and purging, had occurred by the time four doses had been taken. The cases which were treated from their outset by arsenic, recovered sooner than those in which the arsenical treatment had been preceded by ordinary remedies. Of the four cases of simple diarrhoea, the arsenical solution was successful in three, and failed in one. The failure occurred in a delicate female, who had frequently suffered from diarrhoea. Of the five cases of diarrhoea passing into dysentery, the arsenical solution had a beneficial effect in all; but the addition of one to five drops of laudanum to each dose, according to the age of the patient, was productive of a more rapid improvement than was the arsenic alone.

The dose was, for an infant, half a drop or a drop, and, for an adult, from two to three drops, of Fowler's solution, coupled with a few drops of tincture of orange peel, every half hour or every one or two hours, according to the urgency of the symptoms. When the temperature of the body was considerably reduced, artificial warmth was applied; and in every case the patient was allowed to drink as much cold water as he or she desired. As soon as the choleraic symptoms had improved, the arsenic was administered either in smaller doses or at longer intervals; and when it was thought advisable to discontinue it entirely, no further remedy was deemed necessary.

The success thus attending the exhibition of arsenic in English cholera leads to the inference that it might prove a valuable remedy in the Asiatic form of that disease, in which I should not scruple to give it in five, eight, or ten drop doses, every half hour, until either a decided amendment had taken place, or an aggravation of the symptoms declared it to be of no service.

No apprehension need be felt on the score of its poisonous properties, because the choleraic symptoms always subside before its poisonous effects can be manifested; and the first improvement in the symptoms is an indication either to diminish the dose or to exhibit it at more distant intervals.

Chesterfield, Oct. 12th, 1854.

[In our Periscope Review, vol. for 1853, p. 91, it was stated that Dr. Burow, a German physician, "gave to twenty-nine cholera patients doses of four drops of the arsenical solution every hour or half hour, and only one of them died." In autumnal relapsing diarrhoea, we have found no remedy more useful than quinine, especially when combined with iron. We believe that all antiperiodic remedies, such as quinine, arsenic, and iron, are useful in cholera. EDITOR.]

CASE OF POISONING BY RED PRECIPITATE: PTYALISM: RECOVERY.

By FREDERICK JAMES BROWN, M.D.

MARY ANN KAIN, aged 16 years and 9 months, residing with her parents at Chatham, swallowed thirty grains of red precipitate mixed with jam, at 11 A.M., 31st August, 1854. The girl took the powder herself, intending to take some aromatic powder to relieve pain in the bowels which had just seized her. The red precipitate was properly la-

* Fifth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, *ol. cit.*

balled, and the mistake showed the utmost carelessness on the girl's part. I first saw her at a quarter before 2 P.M. The swallowing of the powder caused a burning sensation, "like hot ashes"; vomiting occurred in fifteen minutes, when the powder was mostly ejected from the stomach. Vomiting took place five times between 11 A.M. and a quarter to 2 P.M. There was no powder noticed in the vomited matters after the second time. Pain was first felt in the stomach at a quarter past 1 P.M.; namely, two and a quarter hours after the exhibition of the poison.

When I visited the girl, I found her reclining on a sofa, in a perfectly tranquil state. She stated that she felt pain at the pit of the stomach. The mouth was not excoriated. I ordered her to drink one pint of milk with three eggs stirred into it; to be followed by a pint of milk taken in small quantities. I prescribed two and a half grains of the *pilula saponis composita* every four hours. The pain ceased by 10 P.M., and there was no further vomiting.

September 1st. The mouth was sore and the throat inflamed.

September 2nd. She slept last night. The bowels were open for the first time since the accident. The mouth was very sore; flakes of epithelium were separated. There was occasional pain in the left hypochondrium. The pulse was quiet. She was ordered to continue the pills; and to have bread and milk diet.

September 3rd. The mouth was less sore; and she had now no pains.

September 4th. Salivation was present. From this date she rapidly improved. She required no further attendance.

I have ascertained that some druggists sell twenty, others thirty grains of the nitric oxyde of mercury for a penny. In the present instance, thirty grains were sold for that sum.

Chatham, October 18th, 1854.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

DU PANNUS ET DE SON TRAITEMENT, AVEC TRENTE OBSERVATIONS DE LA CURE RADICALE DE CETTE AFFECTION, PAR L'INOCULATION BLENNORRHAGIQUE. PAR ÉVARISTE WARLOMENT, etc., etc., Rédacteur et Directeur-Gérant des Annales d'Oculistique. pp. 98. Bruxelles: 1854.

AMONG the ophthalmic physicians of Belgium, Dr. WARLOMENT deservedly occupies a distinguished position; for he is well skilled in all that relates to the eye, and is highly accomplished in the science and literature of the profession. In the work before us, the author has evidently spared nothing which can render it a complete epitome of the subject of which it treats. It has, however, an especial object; namely, to bring into more general notice a plan of treatment of pannus, which may be said to be nearly unknown, or at all events unpractised, in this country; for, although it may have been tried here and there, it has certainly not taken root among us.

By *pannus* is to be understood a thickened and vascular state of the conjunctiva corneæ preventing the passage of the rays of light, and so inducing a greater or less amount of blindness.

The plan consists in inoculating the eye with matter which shall induce a violent inflammation, and so, by altering the action of the part, restore transparency to the cornea. This was first suggested by Frederick Jäger of Vienna, in 1812, and was extensively employed by him and by Piringer of Gratz. Still a prejudice existed against it; and, though several practitioners have reported favourably of it, the balance of opinion has hitherto been the other way. Dr. Van Roosbroeck, the eminent professor in the University of Ghent, is a great advocate in its favour, and uses indifferently pus from the purulent ophthalmia of infants, from gonorrhœal ophthalmia, and even from the urethral gonorrhœa itself.

The method consists in taking a drop of the inoculating matter, and placing it on the palpebral conjunctiva; of course the symptoms of acute purulent ophthalmia are induced and are treated in the same way as the ordinary purulent ophthalmia, though Dr. Warloment lays much stress on the advantage of early using nitrate of silver, either in substance or strong solution, and afterwards a weak solution frequently.

In the majority of cases, this treatment is successful; but, before recovering its perfect transparency, the cornea retains for some time a degree of cloudiness, which, however, diminishes day by day. There is also some myopia; but this Dr. Warloment refers to the dulness of the sense of sight, caused by long disuse of the eye and deprivation from light. There is one fact to which he especially calls attention, namely, that, in all cases where the succession of phenomena, the result of the inoculation, are freely developed in persons having granulations of the lids, these granulations, however extensive or long-standing, disappear when the blenorrhœa has completed its course.

In conclusion, Dr. Warloment says that he is quite aware that his facts will be disputed, but only by practitioners who have never submitted them to the test of actual trial. They will be shocked at the idea of inoculating an eye with a disease commonly so destructive in its effects; but, says he, "a word to reassure them. Though in healthy eyes the gravest disorders are often the results of blenorrhœa, we can affirm that such is not the case when the cornea is protected by a vasculo-membranous net which covers it. The diseased action exhausts itself on this protecting covering, and, when it has dispersed it, it stops."

Thirty cases are given, in greater or less detail; and when the authority of such men as Jäger, Van Roosbroeck, and Warloment, is considered, it is impossible not to admit that the practice may be attended with better results than has usually been supposed to be the case in England. The work will well repay perusal; and the cautions given by the author merit attention. One warning we would offer. Let no man inoculate an eye who cannot have the patient under his immediate and constant charge, in a hospital or a private house. To leave the result to chance, by treating the case as an out-patient, would pretty certainly sacrifice the eye, and damage the reputation of the surgeon.

WANDERINGS AMONG THE WILD FLOWERS: How to see and how to gather them, with two Chapters on the Economical and Medicinal Uses of our Native Plants. BY SPENCER THOMSON, M.D. Woodcuts. 12mo. pp. 318. 1854.

THIS is an admirable little work to place in the hands of young persons: it introduces them in the right way to "Wild Flowers";—those wonderful and beautiful works of God which are too often neglected by parents as means for expanding and improving the youthful mind. A more appropriate little present to boys and girls of ten or twelve years of age could not be selected than Dr. Thomson's "Wanderings among the Wild Flowers". It will be always seasonable, as one department of the work consists of "Monthly Illustrations of Wild Flowers". In recommending this work as especially fitted for children, we do not mean to regard it as a child's book, because it is adapted for persons of all ages who may yet be novices in natural history. It is simply and elegantly written. In conclusion we would, adopting the words of the author's preface, remark, that "well will it be when no man can be considered properly educated, who is ignorant of the leading facts at least of the natural sciences; still better will it be when the study of these sciences, ranking next to the study of the inspired Scripture, shall be made a great means to the end of all education—the improvement of the heart, as well as the cultivation of the intellect."