

sometimes evidently local, sometimes more general in its character. For instance, when the bodily excitement is great, and the patient is not only restless but violent, the increased fulness of the blood vessels of the brain is evidenced by the swollen condition of the veins of the forehead and even of the face, which assumes a dusky and even purplish look. The conjunctiva, or "white" of the eye, also is, in such cases, a valuable index to the condition of the vessels of the deeper tissues; and in many cases of delirium the conjunctivæ become bloodshot and reddened, owing to the fulness of the blood vessels which in health are hardly perceptible. Our forefathers, when such symptoms were present, were accustomed at once to bleed the patient; and in suitable cases at the present day, when this most valuable course of treatment is carried out, we see the results which old books of medicine so graphically describe, and which led medical men in former ages to believe so firmly in the value of blood-letting. In such cases, for example, the blood flows at first sluggishly and then more quickly, and after three or four ounces have passed, the violent action of the heart becomes steadier, slower, and more easy; the congestion disappears from the eye, the mental excitement seems to pass away like a cloud, and in many instances the man who was, a few minutes before, violent and raving, lies quiet and calm, and probably asks some rational question as to where he is or what he is suffering from. In many patients, however, especially in those of feeble constitution, the abstraction of blood is impossible; because it would be more dangerous than the disease; and in such patients, sometimes, blood can be drawn from the head by the application of mustard leaves to the limbs, or even by placing the feet and legs in a foot bath of hot water in which mustard has been freely mixed. The object sought to be attained is of course the same; that is to say, the relief of the congestion of the vessels of the brain; but the blood is not here withdrawn from the body, and so, while the patient is temporarily relieved from the immediate danger, there is no permanent injury done, or weakness caused, by any actual loss of blood.

(To be continued.)

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A Guarantee of Purity

Medical Matters.

SPRAINS.



A LARGE amount of literature has recently been devoted to a consideration of these very common and very painful accidents. Probably, there are few people who have not suffered from a sprained ankle; and they will perhaps be interested to know that in the opinion of a German scientist,³ this is due entirely to a nerve affection. The gentleman in question, unhappily for himself, slipped on a pavement in Berlin and fell upon the kerbstone. With true German searching after science, instead of arising from the gutter, and making as little public exhibition of his sufferings as possible, this gentleman remained in the position into which his accident had thrown him, and commenced to note in his pocket book his precise sensations, and the exact position of the injured ankle. From this inquiry, he was unfortunately too soon removed by an officer of the police, whose obedience to orders, in preventing obstructions to the highway, was as rigid as the professor's devotion to science. In consequence, the results were somewhat incomplete; but the self-investigator is now firmly convinced that the accident was not due to a slippery pavement but merely to a deficient loss of nerve power over the muscles and tendons of the ankle, permitting these to become relaxed and therefore allowing the foot upon which the weight of the body was being placed, in locomotion, to turn over and so to strain the ligaments of the joint; tearing through some of their blood-vessels, and so causing the swelling and bruising of the surface which is so familiar a consequence to all who have suffered from the accident in question. The theory is important from a practical point of view, because if it be correct—and there seems considerable reason that it may be—it certainly explains the remarkable frequency with which some people suffer from such sprains when there is no obvious cause for the ankle to give way; and, on the other hand, it supplies an additional reason for the preventive treatment recommended to such patients—namely, that they should always wear some firm support to

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