

caffeine hypo.; gastric lavage at 8 p.m. Evacu-
tions 11.

13th Day.—Hiccough and vomiting continue.
Two hyp. caffeine; gastric lavage. Small quanti-
ties of hot water, Benger, milk. Evacuations 9.

14th Day.—Iced coffee, milk, Benger; hic-
cough and vomiting following. Patient show-
ing symptoms of collapse, but mentally quite
clear. Second consultation with specialist.
Gastric symptoms pronounced not due to local
lesion or inflammation but to toxæmia of
pneumo-gastric nerve, causing gastric spasms.
Orders: continuance of enemas, caffeine; and
nourishment as before. Reserved prognosis.

Now comes in the special interest of the case.
The patient, who was perfectly calm and
resigned to whatever God should permit,
listened to the Professor's slowly enunciated
Italian explanation to the English doctor.
Knowing Latin, he understood sufficiently to
draw his own conclusions, and argued that
since the vomiting was due to spasms, an anti-
spasmodic might prevent their recurrence. He
therefore asked for a bottle of the strongest
smelling salts, and whenever the hiccough
commenced he applied them immediately to his
nostrils. Whether it was the result of auto-
suggestion, or of anti-spasms, the fact remains
that gradually the hiccough ceased, and food
began to be retained. Another factor, however,
may have helped, and is therefore of interest.
The English doctor had ordered, and most
kindly lent, a water bed, on account of the great
emaciation of patient. He was to be moved on
to it in the afternoon after the consultation.
The doctor assisted at the preparations and at
the placing of patient on it. The temperature
of the water was higher than is usual, so much
so that blankets had to be folded and inserted
between the patient and water bed. Profuse
perspiration ensued. Temperature of patient
was 101 before, and descended to 99 two hours
after being placed on water bed, and he slept
fairly well.

15th day.—2 hyp. caffeine, protargol enema,
milk, albumen, Benger, arrowroot, retained in
increasing proportions. Evacuations, 6.

16th Day.—2 hyp. caffeine, tannin and
laudanum enema, milk, arrowroot, Benger three
hourly, all retained, evacuations 5, slept well.

17th Day.—1 hyp. caffeine, protargol enema,
nourishment increased, and all retained, one
evacuation, formed.

After this, custard and jellies were begun and
enemas discontinued; convalescence taking
a regular course. Patient allowed one hour on
the sofa the seventh day after cessation of
vomiting, and carried into garden for four
hours on the eleventh day.

M. A. TURTON.

French Doctors.

French doctors have had so much to say on
the subject of English nurses of late that
perhaps I may be forgiven for endeavouring to
give a picture of the medical practitioner in
France.

I am constantly being asked whether it is
true that French doctors are the cleverest in
the world and how they compare with English
ones.

The following story I once heard will per-
haps be the best answer I can give:—

"Three *Savants*—one English, one French,
one German—were asked to write an essay on
the camel.

"The Englishman packed up a few things in
a tub, and having travelled all over the world
where camels live, he returned home and wrote
his essay.

"The German went to all the libraries and
museums (in his own country), and having
studied all about the habits and customs of
the camel, wrote his essay.

"The Frenchman went to the "Jardins"
in Paris, and, having spent a few hours in
observing the various species of camels, wrote
his essay."

This, to my mind, describes the French
doctor better than anything I can tell you. He
is very clever, very quick; but uncertain, and
somewhat superficial.

The German is ponderously scientific and
precise—he applies mathematics and all the
abstract sciences to the human frame. If a
patient comes to him about the simplest thing,
his blood is drawn and examined under the
microscope, while his urine is examined not
only microscopically but tested—tested early in
the morning and late at night, tested before
meals and after meals, tested before exercise
and after exercise, tested lying in bed and
tested sitting up. A man sits in the laboratory
and tests from morning till night. As to the
dietary, every mouthful the patient swallows
has been weighed and every ingredient pre-
scribed.

The funniest thing to me is that the German
patient is equally precise. The English doctor
is more practical and guided by common sense.
He is neither weighed down and hampered by
exact science like his German colleague, nor
carried away by brilliant theories like his
French *confrère*.

This, of course, applies to general prac-
titioners.

With regard to surgery, I should imagine
that French surgeons stand highest, for they
have one god and that is "Surgery," and one
goddess and her name is "Asepsis." They

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