

Professional Review.

THE MEDICAL ANNUAL.

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EMPHYEMA.

The treatment of emphyema by irrigation, by submersion in water or some weak antiseptic, is advocated by S. A. Adams. It is carried out as follows:—

"The patient is placed in a bath of boiled water, and the temperature is kept at 100 degs. Fahr. An opening of sufficient size to permit the egress and ingress of water must be made in the chest. With every inspiration the water runs into the chest, and with every expiration it returns, laden with pus, which sinks to the bottom. The entire body is kept under water until expiration expels clear fluid, the time varying from ten to twenty minutes."

FRACTURES.

We note that Bennett says that Massage has not received the attention in cases of fracture that it deserves from English surgeons. He believes that "in suitable cases the results are better than those to be obtained by any other method. The pain and stiffness which are seen after fractures are due in most cases not to adhesions, but to matting together of the soft parts immediately about the line of fracture. Massage prevents this, and prevents atrophy of the muscles. It also relieves the muscular spasm which is so troublesome in many cases."

PHTHISIS.

An interesting note on this subject is that those who reject the doctrine of heredity maintain, with considerable reason, that "the so-called predisposition to consumption is, in reality, a question of environment and proximity to the risks of personal infection. Once let a parent recognise that it is by *infection*, and not by *inheritance*, that he may be a danger to his children, and it will not be difficult to persuade him to take precautions against spreading the disease." As regard treatment, prevention is every year taking a more important place in the treatment of this disease, which is branded by Sir John Simon as one of the "filth diseases." The measures required to prevent its spread are purification of the air, the admission of sunlight, the drainage of the subsoil, the provision of damp-proof courses, and concrete basements. Dr. Ransome is of opinion, that badly ventilated churches and chapels, theatres, concert halls, assembly rooms, which are seldom visited by the rays of sunlight, are "hot beds and forcing grounds in which may be kept alive, and even cultivated, the germs of tuberculosis and other diseases."

TETANUS.

Two instances are given of the effect of anti-toxin treatment in cases of tetanus. A boy was injured by a pistol shot between the thumb and index finger. The wound was not properly cleansed and tetanus set in. He was taken to the Pasteur Institute, and in addition to hypodermic injections of Anti-tetanic Serum three cubic centimetres of a similar fluid was injected in each side of the brain. The spasms gradually diminished, and in three weeks the boy was discharged.

In another case in which a wound gave every evidence of healing properly, tetanus suddenly developed. Antitoxin Serum was injected without effect. As a final effort it was decided to inject it directly into the brain. The result of this was that almost immediately there was a relaxation of the muscles of the jaw, and improvement was steady and constant.

TYPHOID FEVER.

It is stated that Professor Quierolo, of Pisa, feeds his typhoid patients entirely by nutritive enemata in order to give rest to the ulcerated bowel. The enemata are given four times a day, and consist of triturated meat and pancreas with a few drops of laudanum, each injection being preceded by washing the rectum with boric acid solution. Many severe cases have recovered upon this treatment.

The communication of the disease by flies has been "indisputably brought out by the scandalously bad hygiene which characterised many American home army camps immediately after the late Spanish war. The diptera alight upon typhoid excreta in imperfectly disinfected camp 'sinks,' and convey the bacilli upon their feet, probosces, etc., to the first dish or article of food they alight upon."

Much confidence is expressed in some quarters as to the cold tub bath treatment of this disease, one medical man going so far as to say, "At present my confidence in the hydriatic treatment is such that I would not feel comfortable to treat a patient in any other way, unless such treatment was insisted upon by the patient."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The third part of the "Medical Annual" is devoted to various subjects, such as the Legal Decisions affecting medical men and the public health, notes on Sanitary Science, and an excellently illustrated review of

NEW INVENTIONS.

Amongst these may be noted the Japanese air cushion sold by Messrs. Maw, Son, and Thompson, of which the price is only 1s. 8d. for the round cushion or 2s. for the square one. The Antiseptic Handkerchiefs, sold by Messrs. Arthur & Co., of 69, Berners Street, which cost only 3s. 3d. per thousand, and which are specially useful in cases of tuberculous disease. The Catheter Dish, of Messrs. Reynolds & Branson, which is long enough to admit an ordinary catheter without flexion, and which has an over-lapping lid, and the glass tank for dressings by the same firm.

A spittoon for phthisical patients by Messrs. Ferris and Co., Bristol, after the pattern devised by Dettweiler, is described as follows. It is a neat pocket flask of blue glass, about four inches long by two inches wide. The top and bottom are arranged to close hermetically, and are in nickel plate. The presence of a spring causes the top to fly open to receive the expectoration, and the whole is readily taken apart for cleansing. The contrivance is said to be excellent except for its weight, it is suggested that this should be rectified by making the spittoon entirely of aluminium.

We have, we think, said sufficient to show that the "Medical Annual" is an important contribution to the books of its kind for the year, and to induce our readers to procure and read it for themselves.

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