

Medical Matters.

TROPICAL COMPLAINTS.



MEDICAL practitioners in Britain with old tropical residents under their charge, often, at this season of the year, find that their patients are liable to stomachic, hepatic, and biliary derangements. The spring in England is so changeable, now hot, now cold, that persons with "exhausted" livers are unable to accommodate their economy to the varying conditions of the climate. The liver is apt to enlarge somewhat, to become tender, and if a malarial element is present, the old tropical resident is sure to be in trouble during the spring. Most of the ailments will be overcome by a diet from which potatoes, coarse vegetables, and bread are withheld. Alcohol must be restricted to a minimum, hock must supplant whiskey, and Vichy water ought to be freely consumed between meals or when the stomach is empty. Quinine in 5-grain doses given twice weekly after breakfast for a month will help digestion and even when no malaria is in evidence, will stimulate the liver to healthy action. As an aperient, no drug equals the Sulphate of Soda in ailments of this kind.

EXCRETION AND KIDNEY WEIGHT.

Some very interesting and important results are reported by Dr. T. B. Nash in the *Australian Medical Gazette* for December 20th, 1899, in an article "Excretion of Urinary Water and Urea by Diminished Kidney Weight." In these days, when portions of kidney, or the whole organ, are frequently removed for calculus or other disease, it becomes of great importance to know how much of the renal tissue can be taken away with impunity. Details of these cases are given by Dr. Nash. In the first, the right kidney was removed; in the second, one-half of the right kidney; in the third, the left kidney. In all the cases, careful observations were made as to the result of operation on the excretion of urinary water and urea. Reference is repeatedly made to the results of some experiments carried out by Dr. Bradford, and in general terms it may be said that the author's opinions are in accord with these results. This accord is well seen in the observation that partial nephrectomy increases the amount of water passed; this seems to have

been the case in the author's patients. In one case, three years after the operation it was found that the healthy kidney was excreting more than the average quantity of water passed by two normal kidneys. At the same time, an average amount of urea was found. The same result followed removal of one-half of one kidney after the lapse of two years. These results are very encouraging, and clearly show the value of surgical interference in a class of case which, thirty years ago, would have been looked upon as amenable to palliative measures only.

PAIN FOLLOWING TEETH EXTRACTION.

A well known dentist has recently stated that after every extraction, with subsequent pain, he wipes the alveolus with concentrated carbolic acid, applying it by means of cotton held in the tweezers. Success is almost certain, even after hours of pain, the pain ceasing suddenly. An excess of undiluted carbolic acid in exposed tissues is less dangerous than a diluted solution.

A PREVENTIVE OF RUPTURED PERINEUM.

In America it appears to be the custom to use the Champetier de Ribes bag for gradually dilating the vagina with a view of discounting the effect of the foetal head in producing laceration of the perineum. When the os is the size of half-a-crown the bag is introduced and distended to its full limit. The patient's exercise was not interfered with. The head entering the pelvis presses on the bag and thus makes continuous dilatation of the perineum. With the expulsion of the bag it is said that the head immediately follows without any laceration whatever. The presence of the bag in the vagina stimulates and strengthens the pains. Traction upon the bag dilates the inferior strait in advance of the head, which tends to reduce the amount of moulding and shortens the second stage. After the head enters the pelvis, its pressure on the bag maintains a state of constant distension of the perineum which paralyses the contracting muscles. The effect of pressure on the perineum either by means of the bag or the fingers is undoubtedly to stimulate and strengthen the pains. But whether rupture of the perineum would thereby be always prevented is not so certain. The after-coming shoulders are probably as often responsible for this disaster as the head.

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