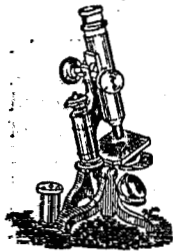


Medical Matters.

A CASE OF TARANTULA BITE.



The case is recorded of a man, fifty-two years of age, of good physique and in good health, who was bitten by a tarantula in the right index. He was seen within two minutes. The man seemed dazed and complained of intense burning, sharp pain. Dr. Boyers cut off the circulation of blood in the finger with a narrow bandage. He then made a crucial incision to the bone over the site of infection and held the finger under the hydrant, rubbing it thoroughly in the running water about one minute, and applied a saturated solution of potassium permanganate, kneading it thoroughly into the wound. The patient then reclined on a couch, as he was scarcely able to sit up. His pulse was very weak and could scarcely be felt at the wrist. His heart beat very feebly, thirty-eight to forty beats per minute. One of the most alarming symptoms was a spasmodic difficulty of breathing, in which the muscles of respiration seemed almost completely paralysed, lasting for a period of one-half to one or two minutes, and returning every three to eight or ten minutes at first, but gradually at longer intervals, and disappearing entirely in four or five hours. His complexion was of an ashen hue. The extremities were cold and bathed in perspiration. The pupils were slightly dilated, and when he was spoken to he opened his eyes and stared, not knowing the location of the speaker. His hearing was considerably impaired. He did not recover from the effects of the poison sufficiently to know things clearly for eight or nine hours. The first symptoms after the bite were the burning, sharp pain at the site of injury, a very unusual full feeling of the head, and an unsteadiness of gait. The tarantula that bit him was found. It was 5 in. in length and of a brown colour. It was a female with eggs and young, and very vicious.

The constitutional treatment consisted first of $\frac{1}{30}$ grain of strychnine with $\frac{1}{100}$ grain of nitro-glycerin hypodermically, in small doses frequently repeated, $\frac{1}{15}$ grain of strychnine, and during the first hour and a-half after the bite he was given in all, by mouth and hypodermically, $\frac{1}{30}$ grain of nitro-glycerin, $\frac{1}{30}$ grain of atropine, $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of morphine, 1 oz. of aromatic spirits of ammonia, and 6 oz. of the

best brandy, besides using artificial heat. The bowels, kidneys, and skin were kept active. He made an uninterrupted recovery in four or five days.

HYGIENE OF FASTING.

The *Literary Digest* has something to say about the hygiene of fasting. It tells us that all the great founders of religion have prescribed a certain amount of fasting for their disciples. The reason given is not only the knowledge that it is well for man to conquer his bodily desires, but also the experience that most persons eat too much. To overload the stomach with food is quite as unhealthy as to deluge it with beverages.

The late Charles Purdy, of Chicago, told us that the greatest dietetic sin of the average American was his meat-eating propensity. He eats meat generally twice, frequently three times, a day, thus laying on his secretory organs a task in the disposal of waste products that is physiologically prodigious. We may say that the average Canadian and the average Englishman are equally offenders in this respect. Of course there is nothing new about this sort of preaching. The facts stated have been recognised in all ages of the world.

We may tell the public all about the evils resulting from excessive meat-eating, such as premature hardening of the arteries, premature old age, so-called heart failure, Bright's disease, rheumatism, gout, &c. Our audiences generally give us a fairly respectful hearing, but go on eating meat as before, while in what is generally known as good health. The same may be said concerning other dietetic errors, such as the excessive use of sweet and starchy foods.

While we have to regret our utter helplessness in the great majority of cases, no matter how well intended our efforts may be, we must admire the foresight of those who in the early days prescribed fasting for their disciples.

LAVAGE IN VOMITING OF PREGNANCY.

Dr. Hedback, in *St. Paul Medical Journal*, says:—There is one disorder in particular in which I have found drug treatment very unsatisfactory. I refer to the pernicious vomiting of pregnancy. Here lavage is our best remedy. The exact explanation of its action here I cannot give, as the vomiting does not always seem to depend on the contents of the stomach. It is possible that the stomach washing has some helpful effect on the reflex nervous mechanism.

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