

Medical Matters.

THE TREATMENT OF CONSUMPTION.



A new remedy for consumption is advocated by Professor Guiseppe Levi, of Milan. It is based on the principle that by circulation in human blood iodium is converted into a powerful opponent of tubercular microbes. There are now so many "cures" for consumption that there should be an appreciable difference in the death rate from this disease. After all, however, we shall not easily better the fresh air cure provided by Mother Nature.

TREATMENT OF ASTHMA.

Dr. Sawyer, writing on this topic in a recent issue of the *Charlotte Medical Journal*, says he believes the treatment of asthma must necessarily be divided into the treatment of the acute attack and the treatment during the interval. When first called to see a patient with asthma he generally has an acute paroxysm, and immediate relief is necessary. To accomplish this the inhalation of chloroform, ether, or a nitrate of amyl pearl broken up in a handkerchief, or of fifteen to thirty drops of iodide of ethyl on cotton, is frequently all that is needed. Sometimes a hypodermic of morphine is indicated; or large doses of chloral or potassium bromide. Great care is necessary in exhibiting chloroform, strontium, belladonna, and depressing narcotics, as they must not be used when the patient has a weak heart, and especially where the attack is due to a cardiac affection, as they are here dangerous. Morphine must be used carefully in order to prevent the forming of the morphine habit. Codeine may be used when morphine is indicated, but is debarred by reason of its causing nausea, vomiting, &c. Atropine does good at times, and may be combined with morphine. Strong, hot stimulants or a dose of spirits of chloroform in hot whiskey, or Hoffmann's anodyne, will sometimes induce relaxation. Cocaine applied locally to the nose in cases due to nasal abnormalities frequently gives prompt relief. The use of adrenalin hypodermically and by local application is oftentimes of great service. The author has found it to be of real advantage in numerous cases, especially when there is a congested nasal mucosa, and in "hay-asthma." Inhalation of carbonic acid gas has been useful in many cases. It is supposed

to act by abolishing the reflex sensibility of the larynx, and has cut short the paroxysm when given during the attack. The sedative antispasmodics, such as belladonna, henbane, stramonium, and lobelia, may be given in solution or used in the form of cigarettes. Nitre paper made with a strong solution of nitrate of potash is very serviceable. Many excellent cigarettes are manufactured for asthma, and they do good at times. Most of them contain some plant of the order Solanaceæ, with nitrate or chlorate of potash. Filling the sleeping-room at bedtime with the fumes from nitre paper or some of the asthma cigarettes or powders will sometimes ward off an impending nocturnal attack. In some patients tobacco acts as well as other forms of cigarettes, especially with those who are not accustomed to using it. Paraldehyde, thirty grains hourly, is recommended by Dr. Mackie. Citrate of caffeine is good in bronchial asthma, and in bronchitis associated with spasm of the bronchial tube. Free ventilation supplies fresh air and does good. Inhalations of oxygen are also efficacious at times. Strong coffee is worth trying, as is also nitro-glycerin. When the stomach is overloaded after a hearty supper, the use of apomorphine as an emetic and expectorant will bring prompt relief, but this is contraindicated in the patient who is greatly debilitated, or has a weak heart. Wine of ipecac, or antimony may also do good.

The application of cold over the pneumogastrics in the neck, or to the upper spinal regions, is sometimes successful in relieving the attack. Electricity (galvanisation and faradisation of the neck) will likewise give relief. Nitrate of sodium may also be used successfully. Dr. See advocates the use of inhalations of pyridin. Dr. Duenas recommends antipyrin, 15 grains every three hours, as being especially effective in anæmic cases, but it soon loses its power and does harm sometimes by increasing the severity of the subsequent attack, especially in cases associated with bronchitis. Dr. Penzoldt employs the tincture of quebracho, a tablespoonful, pure or in emulsion.

Mustard plasters to the chest and calves and hot applications are sometimes useful, as is also the putting of the hands and feet in hot water, or the inhalation of the vapour of turpentine or ammonia. The use of the pneumatic cabinet may be beneficial. The author has in several instances cut short an attack by the use of the inhalation of medicated vapours from a compressed air apparatus.

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