

lowing is the formula employed: Axunge 30 grammes (seven and a half drachms); proto-sulphate of iron crystallized and washed, 50 centigrammes to 1 gramme (eight to fifteen grains); dissolve the salt in a few drops of water, and incorporate it immediately with the axunge. Keep it from contact with the air.—*Bulletin Gén. de Thérap.*, 1854, p. 553.

33. *Employment of Alkaline Carbonates in the Treatment of Membranous Angina.*—M. MARCHAL DE CALVI advocates the employment of alkalis in this sometimes most intractable disease, and cites cases treated by the bicarbonate of soda, in which the recovery was rapid, immediately following its administration. In the first case, the mucous membrane, at the back of the throat, was very red and œdematous; the mucous membrane, too, covering the palate and tonsils, was covered with stripes and patches of false membrane. This exudation was beneath the epithelium, for it could not be scraped off with the nail. Deglutition was performed with considerable pain. Twelve leeches were first applied to combat the inflammation, and three drachms of bicarbonate of soda were ordered to be divided into twelve packets, one to be taken every half hour, in a spoonful of water. Upon returning, after an absence of four hours, he found that the leeches had drawn a large quantity of blood, which was decidedly less plastic than natural. Upon examining the throat, the false membrane was found to have disappeared entirely. This the author attributes to the administration of the bicarbonate of soda, whose action he thus explains. Its first or chief action is to render the blood less plastic. It is with this object in view that the medicine is prescribed; but there seems to be another mode of action in this peculiar disease, which M. Suresure has supposed likely to exist, viz: a local action; which may account more satisfactorily for its rapid action in the case just recorded.—*Dublin Hosp. Gaz.*, 15th May, from *Gazette Médicale de Paris*.

34. *Inhalations of the Fumes of Opium in Coryza.*—Dr. LOMBARD, of Geneva, has found that in those severe cases of coryza which are accompanied by great pain and senso of weight in the frontal sinuses, the inhalation of the fumes of burnt opium affords the patient the most marvellous and speedy relief. The pain ceases as if by enchantment, and the patient passes from a state of misery into one of comfort. Dr. Lombard recommends a few grains of powdered opium to be thrown upon a slip of metal, previously heated in a spirit lamp; and the patient is desired to hold his head over, and forcibly to inhale the fumes of the drug.—*Gaz. Médicale*, July, 1854.

35. *Chloroform for the Treatment of Lead Poisoning.*—Chloroform is recommended by M. ARAN, Physician to the Hôpital St. Antoine, in Paris. He has just published a somewhat lengthy paper on its use, in which he gives some very interesting illustrative cases. One of these occurred in a house painter, æt. 31, who was affected with lead colic for the second time, after having followed his trade for twenty years. There were obstinate constipation, bilious vomiting, pain in the epigastrium, tormina, scanty urine, and a very low pulse—only 48. A compress, on which nearly a drachm of chloroform had been poured, was placed on the umbilical region, and retained there for several minutes. In spite of the sensation of heat and burning occasioned, immediate relief was experienced by the patient. In addition to this, a sulphureous bath was ordered; a mixture containing 30 drops of chloroform was administered; and a domestic enema was prescribed, to be followed by a small clyster, with 20 drops of the anæsthetic in it. This treatment was continued for a week with great benefit, the chloroform being given morning and evening; and sixteen days after admission the patient was discharged cured. Rather an interesting incident occurred in this man's case; he swallowed, one day, by mistake, nearly an ounce (30 grammes) of chloroform. Symptoms of narcotic poisoning appeared, but the patient recovered satisfactorily. Several other cases are given, in which the same treatment proved very efficacious.

M. Aran says that the compress saturated with the chloroform should be covered with dry compresses, and that it should be allowed to remain in contact

with the skin from two to five minutes. After the preliminary large doses, the following mixture should be used: *R.* chloroformi gtt. 20–50; gum. tragacanth  $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{j}$ ; syr. simplic.  $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{j}$ ; aquæ  $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{i}\mathfrak{i}\mathfrak{j}$ . Misce. Dose, a teaspoonful frequently. He gives the following formula for the chloroform enema: *R.* Chloroformi gtt. 20–50; gum. tragacanth  $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{i}\mathfrak{j}$ ; ov. vitelli,  $\mathfrak{j}$ ; aquæ  $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{i}\mathfrak{v}$ . Misce.

The patient should be desired to endeavour to retain this enema as long as possible.—*Monthly Journ. Med. Sci.*, April, 1855, from *L'Union Médicale*, Jan. 1855.

36. *Iodide of Potassium for Cure of Lead Poisoning.*—It has been asserted by MM. Natalis Guillot and Melsens that the administration of the iodide of potassium is the best means for ridding the system of lead and mercury, inasmuch as the insoluble compounds which the salts of these metals form with the organic substances are all soluble in the iodide of potassium, which is a salt very easily and rapidly eliminated from the animal economy. Mialhe denied these assertions, which were founded on experiments made on dogs. M. MALHERBE, chief physician to the Hôtel-Dieu, at Nantes, has recently tried the drug in some cases of lead poisoning, with great benefit. He never gave more than 15 grains daily, but often much less. His experience of the remedy has not been sufficiently extensive to enable him to arrive at definite conclusions; but he thinks, from the trials he has made of it, that the following deductions are warrantable:—

1. In lead poisoning, elimination of the metal takes place naturally by means of the urinary organs, which is probably due to the influence of the alkaline chlorides contained in the animal fluids, as has been thought by M. Mialhe. But this eliminative process is not sufficiently rapid to procure a spontaneous cure of lead poisoning.

2. This elimination of lead by the urine is rendered much more active by the use of the iodide of potassium; the excretion of the phosphates by this channel is also considerably increased; and these salts yield an insoluble residue which contains the greater part of the eliminated lead.

3. Although lead is not naturally eliminated by the saliva, the iodide of potassium seems capable of occasioning its discharge through this medium.

Malherbe gives the following rules for the rational treatment of lead poisoning, in which he has arranged the remedies according to their relative importance, and not in the order in which they should be administered, which must necessarily vary in different cases. The indications are:—

1. To eliminate the lead contained in the economy by means of iodide of potassium, which should be administered methodically, and should be given as long as the urine and the saliva give the reactions of the metal.

2. To cleanse the cutaneous surface by means of sulphureous and soap and water-baths; and to purify the mucous surfaces by the internal use of the preparations of sulphur and by purgatives. The latter medicines, by inducing abundant bilious evacuations, doubtless eliminate a part of the lead contained in the liver; but they cannot reach those portions of the metal which are combined with the tissues of other organs.

3. To calm hyperæsthesia and nervous symptoms in general (as epilepsy, delirium, convulsions, coma) by narcotics, and especially by belladonna, which, in addition to its sedative properties, is possessed of a cathartic action which often renders the employment of purgatives unnecessary.

4. To combat paralysis by means of strychnia and electricity.—*Monthly Journ. Med. Sci.*, April, 1855, from *Gaz. des Hôpitaux*, 21st Dec. 1854.

37. *Employment of Wine as an Enema.*—M. ARAN observes that, in many cases of dyspepsia, chlorosis, phthisis, and convalescence from severe disease, the use of wine is strongly indicated, whilst the heat and irritation of the digestive organs it induces absolutely prevent its employment. Having found vinous enemata of great utility in obstinate diarrhœa, he tried them in various other cases, and for the last three or four years he has administered them whenever slow convalescence has been united with irritability of the digestive organs. He has also obtained great and unexpected advantages in phthisis,