mation. Direct for this purpose, the administration of mercury, combined with opium. Of this mineral, I invariably select the simplest preparations, such as iodium hydrarg., or the hydrarg. c. cretâ. The administration of this mineral will require to be continued until its effects are produced, namely, gentle ptialism. This must be kept up for a period of a fortnight or three weeks. Severe salivation, I reckon to be uncalled for here, and likely to be productive of injury rather than benefit, for the same reasons which I have urged against large bleedings, namely, its tendency to increase existing debility. After the mercury has done its work, you will very advantageously now prescribe the use of sesquinitrate of bismuth, a medicine, which, (although I do not think it possessed of peculiar or specific effect on the liver), in the present disease is eminently serviceable. The combination which I am in the habit of prescribing for this purpose consists as follows:—R.—Ferri cum saccharo; Sodæ bicarbonat., ãã gr. x.; Subnitrat. bis-muthi gr. v. Fiat pulvis: to be taken three times a day.

This I direct to be persevered in for some length of time, till all the symptoms of pain are removed. This may take up a period of two or three months, but in general you will find it much harder to dissuade your patient from taking, (such an effect has it in relieving him,) than you would have in persuading him to continue it. If the symptoms of this disease should again recur at any period subsequent to the discontinuance of the above combination, it will be very easy for you to have recourse to it again.—*Ranking's Abstract from Medical Times*, Jan., 1845.

28. *Ox-Gall in Constipation*.—Dr. R. H. ALLNAT, in a paper in the *Lancet*, (June 7th, 1845), relates several cases, illustrative of the good effects of inspissated ox-gall in the cure of habitual constipation. In a subsequent No. of the same Journal, (July 12th), he recommends that the ox-gall should be prepared in a water-bath, the gall being frequently stirred, to produce a perfectly homogeneous extract. The addition of a small quantity of magnesia will, he says, expedite the process. He gives it in doses of five grains made into pills, three times daily. He administers it also in some cases, in the form of enema.

29. *Neuralgic Periodicity*.—The following very remarkable case of neuralgic periodicity, is related by Dr. J. PIMMER, in the *Lancet* (July 26th, 1845).

The subject of the case was a female, 14 years of age, who had not yet menstruated. Six years ago she was thrown out of a swing, and her head struck against a brick. Violent headache, referred to the forehead, ensued, which lasted about a fortnight; the right hand then became clenched, and the headache ceased. The hand continued immovably closed for three weeks; it then opened of its own accord, and the headache returned. The hand remained open, and she had the free use of it for three weeks, during which time she suffered from headache. It then closed, with the same relief from headache which she at first experienced. Besides the freedom from headache, her general health was invariably better when the hand was closed, and the opening of the hand was invariably preceded by feelings of indisposition.

From the time of the accident to August last, a period of six years, the alternations of closing and opening of the hand and of headache have followed each other with perfect regularity, except sometimes during the summer, when the intervals have been somewhat protracted. Once, in summer, the hand remained open two months, with constant fore-headache.

When this patient came under Dr. P.'s care in August, 1844, the hand was closed, and she made no complaint of headache. A forcible attempt made to open the hand gave her great pain, extending up the arm. Dr. P. was struck with the excessively sour smell of the perspiration in the hand, resembling sour curds, just as putrefaction is commencing—a state of the cutaneous secretion which obtains in this form of nervous affections. She complained of tenderness along the cervical vertebrae. A grain of strychnia, divided into fifteen pills, one to be taken three times a day, was prescribed, and a succession of mustard-poultices along the spine. Dr. P. directed the hand to be well washed with soap and water, and ordered an antacid diet. Under this plan of treatment her general health underwent a manifest improvement, and when the hand opened at the ex-