pain and uneasiness of the stomach experienced by these patients, that there was a degree of inflammation existing for a long time, with a congested state of the vessels, and, in such a state, stimulants and bitters must only increase the evil, by setting up an increased action in the part, and thereby determining an increase of blood to the tunics, and, I have no doubt, causing a thickening of the mucous membrane, with an increased secretion. We are, therefore, naturally directed by these considerations to the use of local bleeding and counter-irritation, which should be continued till all pain and uneasiness are removed, when it will be found that the vomiting and pyrosis will also be relieved. The lime-water I believe to be of essential service in removing acidity, which is almost always present; and tonics, combined with narcotics, will now be of considerable benefit, giving tone to the vascular and nervous tunics, and quieting excitement. I would suggest that this treatment should be persevered in for some time, having recourse to local bleeding whenever a relapse is threatened, and being most particular in regulating the diet of the patient.

ON THE GOOD
EFFECTS OF HYDROCYANIC ACID
IN CASES OF
CHRONIC INFLAMMATION OF THE
LUNGS,
AND PARTICULARLY OF PHTHISIS.

*By M. FANTONETTI, Professor of Clinical
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In the year 1831 M. Fantonetti published several cases of chronic bronchitis and pulmonary consumption, which were successfully treated with prussic acid. Since then he has continued his experiments, and in the present memoir has published a still greater number of facts, many of which are extremely interesting. The acid employed by the author was at 90°; he commonly commenced by giving two or three drops in a pint of water, sweetened with a little syrup; the mixture was always shaken before being administered; and the author has gradually increased the dose to twenty drops a-day, but never exceeded the latter quantity. The following case will enable the reader to judge of the efficacy of the remedy and of the nature of the cases in which it was employed.

CASE 1.—Bellani, formerly a soldier, now a coachman, narrow-chested, and of scrofulous appearance, had suffered from acute bronchitis in the early part of 1833, and subsequently from acute pneumonia, which was subdued after repeated bloodlettings. He

had a relapse of the pulmonic attack on two several occasions, and after the last one symptoms of phthisis set in, and the patient was soon declared to be incurable by several physicians. When the author first saw the patient the latter had been confined to bed for ten weeks; he was much emaciated, and coughed continually; the expectoration was abundant and purulent. On ausculting the chest the crepitant and cavernous rattles were discovered at the summit of both lungs, particularly on the right side; bronchophony, pectoriloquy, and oëgophony, also existed at the left side, posteriorly and inferiorly. The appetite was lost; skin dry; thirst intense; pulse 130 in the evening; 100 to 110 in the morning; there were night sweats; slight diarrhoea, and some tumefaction of the lower extremities.—Four drops of prussic acid in a pint of gum-arabic emulsion. Barley-water for drink.

March 31. Six drops of the acid.

April 1. Seven drops.

2. Eight drops; no improvement.

3. Ten drops. Towards evening some slight symptoms of narcotism appeared; nevertheless the remedy was continued throughout the night.

4. The narcotism is more manifest, but the dyspnoea, cough, expectoration, and fever have remarkably diminished. The medicine is suspended for one day.

5. Eight drops administered. The acid does not produce any unpleasant effects.

6 and 7. Same dose continued; amelioration of the patient's state. The dose was now increased to nine drops, and administered in this quantity daily, for six days. The medicine was then suspended for a single day and resumed on the next, at the dose of eight drops. At this period it was found, on ausculting the chest, that there existed throughout the left lung generally nothing more than a slight respiratory murmur, except above and below, where some mucous râle was distinguished; on the right side slight cavernous respiration and mucous rattle.

The dose was now carried to twelve drops, and the patient ordered to take some milk and Iceland-moss jelly. In ten days the whole of the symptoms had completely disappeared; there were no longer any cavernous respiration, cough, fever, or expectoration.

The patient began to acquire some strength, and was able to get up. The dose of the acid was now diminished to six drops during five days, with decoction of lichen; since then the amelioration was rapid, and soon terminated in a complete cure. The patient was enabled to resume his occupation of coachman, and has had no relapse.

CASE 2.—A young man, 24 years of age, musician, of scrofulous constitution, was seized, at the age of 22, with cough, in con-

sequence of a debauched life; symptoms of pneumonia soon supervened, and he was bled seven times. After recovery he was teased with a short cough for a year, and then was again attacked by pneumonia. On the 2nd of April he was admitted into the hospital, under the care of M. Fantonetti, in the following state:—

Constant irritation of the throat; respiration difficult, unequal, and undulating; right side of the thorax almost immovable; frequent cough; copious expectoration of round, yellowish matter, mixed with mucus, and occasionally blood. There is an evident gurgling behind the left clavicle; over the remainder of the chest the respiratory murmur is slightly crepitant and mucous. The patient complains of a feeling of heat in the throat, and along the trachea; fever towards evening; sweating in the morning.—Four drops of prussic acid in a pint of distilled water; an ounce to be taken every second hour; decoction of lichen.

April 3. Five drops.

4. The dose increased to six drops.

10. Eight drops. There has been an increase in the severity of the symptoms in consequence of the patient's imprudence. Bleeding from the arm; acid as above.

18. The dose gradually increased to twelve drops.

19. Slight symptoms of narcotism. The remedy is suspended until the 22nd, and then administered in the quantity of eight drops.

24. There is an amendment, for the first time, in all the symptoms.

30. Dose raised to fourteen drops. The pisan is vomited.

May 8. Patient complains of headach and vertigo. The remedy is suspended; a laxative is administered.

12. Acid resumed, in dose of eight drops. There is no amendment in the physical signs of the thoracic disease, but the patient is much less feverish and less subject to sweating. The cavernous respiration at the upper part of the chest persists; the nature of the expectorated matters continues the same; for the last few days, however, there have been no traces of blood in them.

June 1. Cough much less troublesome; expectoration less abundant, chiefly mucous; no fever; 16 drops of the acid; animal food allowed.

6. Dose diminished to twelve drops. Gradual improvement; the patient walks about; the difficulty of respiration has considerably diminished; the cough is slight and the expectoration scanty.

10. The use of the acid is suspended; the patient takes instead $1\frac{1}{2}$ grains of watery extract of myrrh every three or four hours.

22. The patient feels much better; whilst walking about the hospital he is suddenly seized with acute pain in the left side of the chest, and great difficulty of breathing.—

Eighteen leeches to the chest; purgative draught.

23. The symptoms persist. Eight drops of prussic acid.

26. Augmentation of the signs of pulmonary inflammation. The cavernous sound persists on the left side, but is much less intense. Bleeding to 10 oz.; prussic acid ten drops.

27. No improvement; dyspnoea; cough; sense of heat in the chest; fever.—Bleeding to 10 oz.; prussic acid ten drops.

28. No change.

29 and 30. Considerable improvement. Continue the acid.

July 5. Gradual improvement. The dose is diminished to four drops. From this time the patient continued to get better. On ausculting the chest no cavernous sound or gurgling can be distinguished; there is only a trace of pectoriloquy.

15. Cough nearly disappeared; expectoration mucous and scanty. The appetite has returned; the patient is recovering strength and flesh.

18. Dismissed the hospital cured. During the space of two years the patient continued to enjoy good health; he afterwards fell into his old way of life, was again attacked by pneumonia, and died at Monza.

M. Fantonetti relates several other cases of tubercular phthisis and chronic bronchitis, in which the effects of prussic acid were not less remarkable. It is to be regretted that he did not follow up the case of the young man just related, and ascertain, by inspection of the dead body, the real condition of the lung. The cases which we have selected, and the others detailed by the author, are not described with sufficient minuteness and accuracy to remove all doubts concerning their nature; it must, however, be confessed that they resembled cases of tubercular phthisis as closely as possible, and that, whatever name we may choose to give to the affections just described, the action of the prussic acid was most remarkable.—*Gior. Med. di Veniza, and French Med. Gazette, No. 50, 1838.*

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

CASES OF CALCULUS,

Treated in the Hospital of St. Mary, St. Petersburg, during 28 years.

THE total number of patients affected with urinary calculus, treated in the hospital, between the years 1808 and 1836, amounted to 1411.

The following table presents a view of the results obtained during the last seven years:—