

so is the disease which it constitutes more likely to terminate *sua sponte*. Take as an example gonorrhœa, as opposed to syphilis; and if small-pox be cited as an objection, the small-pox pustule dies, and there occurs a line of demarcation between it and the parts imbued with vitality, which may account, *in part*, for this virus not being able to continue its own species in the same individual, even for a time, as in syphilis. Though, perhaps, it may be said, that the time of susceptibility is gone by, for we are not always susceptible of small-pox, even before its occurrence. Of what this susceptibility consists, is another question. Yet we are more susceptible of it before its occurrence than afterwards. This is a fact which no scientific or logical inference could have led a man to pre-suppose. We can reason no farther; we must take nature as we find her. It is an appointment of intelligence which we cannot understand. It serves a benevolent purpose, like all other natural laws.

REMEDIES FOR PRUSSIC ACID.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—A paragraph appeared in the "Monmouthshire Merlin" of this week, under the head of "Effects of Prussic Acid upon a Rabbit," wherein it appears that a Dr. Robinson, of London, having tried three drops of the above-named acid upon a rabbit, the animal immediately exhibited the usual symptoms of poisoning therewith,—increased action of the lungs, dilatation of the pupils, and the peculiar shrill cry which in such cases is generally indicative of immediately approaching dissolution. It is then said that, "in order to give it a chance of recovery, a few drops of ammonia were administered, without apparent benefit." Now, if we bear in mind that ammonia, when taken *internally*, combines with the acid, forming a cyanide of ammonia, which is equally poisonous, we can scarcely wonder at the result. The only way in which ammonia can be of service is by inhalation, so as to endeavour to counteract, by its irritating quality, the very great tendency which there is to collapse. The cold douche, or shower-bath, acts in like manner, by its shock upon the nervous system, as illustrated in the case of the rabbit above quoted, which the experimenter concludes by stating that in "no instance had he seen an animal restored, after presenting the symptoms which this rabbit exhibited." A weak stream of galvanism, if passed along the course of the cerebellum and medulla spinalis, would act in like manner. But these are adjuvants. Now, the proper remedy, if at hand, is *chlorine* (of which no mention is made), for I can, from personal experience, state it to

be the best remedy which we possess, seeing that a solution, when poured down the throat, by means of a tube (care being taken that none gets into the trachea), is sure to recover the person, *even after he has fallen down, labouring completely under the morbid influence of the poison*. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES RATTON, Surgeon.
Coleford, Gloucestershire,
July 26, 1837.

CURE OF GOUT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—A number of THE LANCET, a short time since, contained a letter, in which a correspondent strongly recommended the use of tobacco in gout, and other very painful and deeply-seated affections. Allow me to acquaint your numerous readers with a practice which I have found very successful after the usual remedies have failed. In severe cases it soon eases the excruciating pain, and torture is shortly succeeded by repose. I have only tried it in cases of gout in the extremities. The treatment is this:—Bathe the part in hot water for one minute, and then apply lint, spread with simple cerate, on which is spread about three grains of the acetate of morphia. The change which speedily takes place is surprising. The patient, from extreme agony, at once passes to a state of comfort.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

A SUBSCRIBER.

IODINE IN FARCY AND GLANDERS.

MR. YOUATT has made the following remarks in the *Veterinarian* for the present month (August) on occasion of extracting into that Journal from THE LANCET (p. 580), the paper of Mr. Thompson, of Whitehaven, "On Iodine as a Remedy for Glanders." After thanking the author for the publication of his paper, Mr. Youatt says:—

"Some few experiments have been made on the power of iodine over glanders and farcy, but they have not been instituted on any systematic plan, nor followed up with zeal.

"Mr. Percivall was early in the field. He had a horse in his infirmary (in the spring of 1833) evidently farcied. A chorded chain of connection could be felt between certain pustules that had appeared upon him. Nearly six weeks from the first appearance of the farcy, traces of glanders, which could not be mistaken, appeared in the right nostril, and he was put under the influence of iodine. Three grains of the mineral