in reduction, and I would add the amount of manipulation or injury; and if we would diminish the present high rate of mortality after operation for hernia, we must endeavour to teach it to others, as well as to act upon it ourselves.

MEDICINE IN BULGARIA.

By A. IRWIN BOLTON, M.B., A.B.,

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ALBUMINURIA IN AN AGED PATIENT, TREATED BY GALLIC ACID.

MADAME S—, aged seventy-five, Bulgarian, sent for me on the 23rd March, 1878. She was suffering from dropsy of enormous extent, great difficulty of breathing, insomnia, frequent attacks of vertigo; bowels very irregular, mostly costive. Pulse 90; and most peculiarly dicrotous—namely, two beats then a pause, three beats then another pause, and so on regularly repeated. Tongue natural; thermometer under tongue, 96°. Urine scanty, very high-coloured; sp. gr. 1008, highly albuminous and containing blood-corpuscles. Heart-sounds natural, but rhythm corresponding with pulse. The legs were enormously swollen, and the tissues over the right great trochanter very red and painful. Effusion into the abdominal cavity excessive, and, by its presence, causing apnoea. The apex of the heart beat higher than natural, and the region of cardiac dulness was diminished from below upwards, but increased from side to side owing to the upward pressure of the abdominal fluid transmitted through the lung to the heart.

Ordered mercury pill five grains, compound colocynth pill three grains, extract of hyoscyamus two grains, divided into two pills; and after these have operated, gallic acid two drachms, extract of hyoscyamus twelve grains, with sugar of milk, divided into eight powders, one to be taken every three hours. Powder of squills twelve grains, powder of digitalis six grains, mercury pill twenty-four grains, divided into eight pills, one to be taken at bedtime. Diet farinaceous; a little beef-tea and milk, 10 oz. per diem. To avoid fluid as far as possible. Hot-water foot bath at night.

March 24th.—Bowels freely opened. Symptoms unchanged. Medicines as before.

26th.—Patient much improved. Breathing less difficult. Heart's action improved. Urine copious, clearer, and albumen less; blood-corpuscles undiscernible. Insomnia less. Continue treatment, but increase the gallic acid to twenty grains in each powder. The night pill and diet as before.

27th.—Patient improving very rapidly. Urine as yesterday, but more copious. Bowels confined. Œdema greatly diminished. Ordered compound rhubarb draught and omit gallic acid until the bowels are relieved. Tenderness of trochanter is increasing. Ordered for this a lotion consisting of sulphuric acid one drachm and a half, linseed oil two drachms, balsam of Peru one drachm.

28th.—Bowels freely moved; patient bright and cheerful; dropsical effusion everywhere rapidly diminishing; urine very copious and clear, contains not a trace of albumen, sp. gr. 1015; pulse natural; heart's apex beats in its natural position; breathing normal; sleeps well. Ordered to continue the powders every four hours, pill at bedtime as usual; the pediluvium as before; farinaceous diet.

29th.—Only slight œdema of legs remaining; patient improving. Remedies continued.

31st.—Improving; bowels confined. Ordered compound rhubarb draught.

April 4th.—After this date I omitted professional visit, as my patient was convalescent.

I omitted to mention that this patient had been under the treatment of a native practitioner for six weeks previous to my attendance, and during that time was treated by means of friction, with ointment and oil to the limbs. She stated that her attack commenced after getting a severe wetting.

INCONTINENCE OF URINE, THE RESULT OF INJURY TO THE BLADDER FROM LITHOTOMY, TREATED BY ERGOT.

Mr. G—, aged thirty-one, an Armenian, of fairly robust frame, but very sallow complexion, came under my notice on August 1st, 1878, suffering from incontinence of urine of

eight years' standing. His person emitted a filthy stench, and his trousers were deeply stained by the urine constantly trickling from him. He wears a large soft cloth in the fork of his trousers to catch the urine as it comes from him. The patient was born in Armenia, and there, from the age of five years, he was known to have stone in the bladder. There being no surgeon in his village capable of operating upon him, he had to remain a wretched sufferer until he arrived at the age of twenty-three, when, having put together a little money, he started for Constantinople. Here he went under the care of a Turkish naval surgeon (Dr. Gustantine), who cut him, using the median operation, and removed a stone weighing forty-two drachms. The wound soon healed, and he had no difficulty about micturition, until three months after the operation, when, whilst making water, the stream suddenly stopped, and he was attacked with great pain. The same surgeon attended, and introduced a sound. On its withdrawal the urine passed freely. The surgeon said there was another small stone, and the day following he again operated, removing a second stone weighing twelve drachms. The wound from this operation also healed quickly, but from this period (now eight years) he never has been able to retain his urine when walking or working. Previous to the removal of the first stone he says his sufferings at times were almost unbearable.

Looking upon this man's case as one of relaxation (if I may so call it) of the muscular tissue of the neck of the bladder (the result of the lithotomy sound), especially the sphincter vesicæ, accompanied with unhealthy state of the mucous membrane, I resolved to remedy the latter first, and then try the effects of ergotine internally. Before relating further I may mention that I was led to adopt the ergotine treatment owing to the accounts I have read of its marvellous effects upon involuntary muscular fibre. To correct the unhealthy mucous lining of the bladder I treated him with benzoic acid and buchu internally; compound belladonna ointment applied by friction over the pubes and perineum; enjoined rest in the recumbent position; mucilaginous diet and scanty fluid; cold sea-water douche twice daily. After four days of this treatment, seeing that he complained of no bladder uneasiness, and only suffered from the incontinence, I ordered him the following: Gallic acid, twelve grains; extract of ergot (Bonjean's), half a drachm; extract of nuxvomica, two grains, divided into twelve pills, one to be taken every three hours in the day. The douche to be continued, and the diet and rest as before.

On the fourth day of this treatment the patient observed that his urine only occasionally came away, and then only when making some straining or bending motion of his body. He was so pleased that he begged of me to make the pills stronger. I did so, adding a quarter grain to each pill. He continued taking these pills, one every three hours, until the seventh day of the ergot treatment. At this period he had full control of his bladder, so far as the constant trickling was concerned; but when the desire for voiding his urine came on, he was obliged at once to obey the call or pay the penalty of having his trousers wet through. On the eighth day of the ergot treatment I reduced the number of pills daily to one three times a day. This number he continued taking daily for a week longer, when he said he was perfectly well, and left me much gratified.

Whether I calculated rightly what the effect of the ergot in this case would be, I will leave it for my readers to judge.

In conclusion, I may remark that I have had valuable assistance from ergot in many diseases prevalent here: in dysentery especially; in hæmorrhage from the bowels; in typhoid, frequently. In uterine hæmorrhage (severe) I employed it in one case hypodermically, as lately recommended in THE LANCET, with complete success. In hæmoptysis I find it most beneficial, and am now employing it in a severe case of phthisical hæmoptysis with marked benefit.

MIDLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting was held in Queen's College on the 16th inst., when the following officers were elected:—Mr. Herbert M. Morgan, President; Mr. Harmar, Hon. Treasurer; Dr. Thomas Savage and Mr. John Garner, Hon. Secretaries. The names of Mr. Gamgee, Dr. Sawyer (late President), Mr. William Thomas (late hon. sec.), Mr. West, and Dr. Welch, were added to the Council. Professor Lister, F.R.S., has consented to deliver the inaugural address on Wednesday, the 30th inst.