

Infirmary under treatment by chrysophanic acid internally. The patient is a girl thirteen years of age, and this is her first attack of the disease. The eruption was very extensively distributed, no region of the body being free from it. Most of the patches were very large and covered with thick silvery-white scales. Treatment was begun by the administration of chrysophanic acid in half-grain doses three times a day made into pills with crumb of bread; the dose has been gradually increased, till now the patient takes nine grains daily in separate doses of one grain. At first there was occasionally slight sickness, but now complete toleration of the medicine is established; there is no sickness or vomiting, no pain in the stomach, and appetite and digestion are unaffected. The influence of the remedy on the eruption is most striking after about six weeks' treatment; most of the patches on the trunk have quite disappeared, while those on the limbs are healing very rapidly, especially in the centre. The nurse in charge of the case very aptly remarked that this was a much pleasanter way of using the acid than by rubbing externally, and that the patches of eruption now looked exactly like those "on the leg that wasn't rubbed" (referring to the cases treated by the application of the ointment to one side of the body only).

Glasgow.

ON A CASE OF PUNCTURED FRACTURE OF CRANIUM.

BY T. M. LOWNDS, M.D. EDIN., &C.

ON April 29th, 1881, I was called to see Master —, aged thirteen years and a half, who had been accidentally struck by the point of a wicket on the cricket field about an hour before. I saw him about half-past four in the afternoon, and found that the point of the stump had penetrated both tables of the left parietal bone about three-quarters of an inch above and a little before the left ear. When first struck he had become insensible, but had recovered in a few minutes, and now felt only a little giddy. The hæmorrhage was slight, but a considerable quantity of hair had been driven into the wound, which was round, and at least three-quarters of an inch deep. The cerebral matter pulsed through the inner aperture. Both eyes were normal as to the pupils, and there was no squinting. Pulse small and about 84. I carefully removed the hair driven into the wound, and cut off that surrounding, then washed out the wound with carbolic acid lotion (1 in 100), and brought the edges into apposition with two pads of lint soaked in the same lotion. The patient was then put to bed, and his head kept cool.

About half-past nine in the evening Mr. G. Pollock came to see him with my partner Mr. Giffard and myself. On examining the wound it was at once seen that adhesion had taken place, and apparently the wound had healed by the first intention. The pulsation of the brain could still be seen most distinctly. Pulse was quiet and patient inclined to sleep. In consultation it was determined not to interfere with this punctured fracture of the cranium unless some symptoms of brain mischief should arise. The age of the sufferer, the absence of all brain symptoms, and the wound having closed, were the grounds on which the line of non-interference was determined on.

The next day there was some sickness, but not much. A dose of calomel was given. He slept at intervals during the night. Temperature about 99°. On May 1st he was free from sickness. Slept well. Temperature 98°; pulse 72; respiration 24. Wound looking as if healed. I need not pursue the daily reports. He was watched carefully, and during the next twenty-four days none could have thought that the sharp end of a wooden wicket had penetrated the brain. He recovered without one bad symptom, the only treatment having been to keep the primæ viæ in order, and rest in bed. He was ordered not to resume his studies for at least six months. He did not return for a year, and he tells me that he has not been under the doctor's care, and has only had a few slight headaches. There is now only a depressed scar.

This satisfactory termination of this most dangerous fracture may fairly be ascribed to the carbolic acid antiseptic, which, as Mr. Pollock pertinently remarked, had in the space of five hours converted the compound into a simple

fracture of the cranium. Not once was headache complained of. After the first few hours even the wound occasioned no annoyance; not one drop of pus formed.

The absolute freedom from pain furnishes no uncertain answer to the charge brought against Professor Ferrier, as to the suffering which the monkeys endured, on whose brains Professor Yeo operated and removed portions under chloroform, and the wounds were dressed before the animals recovered from the anæsthesia. If we may judge from the pain which Master — described, it must have been absolutely absent. The wound I have noted was a much more painful one, as it was inflicted by a comparatively blunt instrument, was not dressed for at least an hour afterwards, and during that hour was only covered by a wet cloth. Surely the recovery of this patient without pain is very strong evidence that monkeys operated on while senseless, and their wounds dressed while still in a state of insensibility, suffered no pain while furnishing their quota to the science of localisation of function.

The progress of this case may also lead others to adopt expectant antiseptic treatment in punctured fracture, instead of following out the rule of trephining at once.

Egham-hill.

NOTES ON HYOSCYAMINE.

BY KENNETH W. MILLICAN, B.A., L.R.C.P.

HYOSCYAMINE is a drug which apparently possesses very valuable therapeutic properties, and like many other of the alkaloids requires only to be known to be appreciated. The first case in which I employed it was one of hepatic colic. Feeling convinced from its combined anodyne and antispasmodic properties that good results might be anticipated from its administration, I prescribed it in doses of $\frac{1}{120}$ gr. every half hour until relief was obtained. The patient, a woman who had several times previously passed gall-stones, was greatly relieved after three doses, and the administration was kept up at intervals of an hour until after the spasm ceased. I have several times used it in abdominal colic, in the same doses frequently repeated, and on all occasions with the best results; and it has also proved the most effectual remedy in relieving the painful distress of spasmodic asthma. Indeed, in this latter complaint, my patient, a long-standing martyr to the affection, admits that it has given him more ease than any other drug he has taken, and has completely displaced chlorodyne in his estimation. But, perhaps, the most valuable case of its successful administration is the most recent of all. The patient was a young woman from service who, when I first saw her, was in the most intense abdominal pain. There was considerable diffused peritonitis, and for some time the cause was uncertain. I was at first disposed to suspect, from the history, a pyæmic origin, but ultimately concluded that the peritonitis resulted from collections of fæces at the hepatic and splenic flexures of the colon. Morphia was administered both subcutaneously and by the mouth, and attempts were made to clear the bowels by bland enemata, but all to no avail. Having pushed the morphia as far as I dared, I was obliged to withhold its further administration, for though the pupil gave indications of its action, the pain did not seem to be in the least abated by it. After some time I determined to employ hyoscyamine, which I did in doses of one-fortieth of a grain every two hours. At first it seemed slightly to increase the pain, but shortly after its physiological action upon the fauces and pupil became manifest the pain began gradually to subside, and a fairly fluid evacuation of the bowels ensued. From that time the patient began to mend, and is now progressing fairly well. When I first used hyoscyamine I employed the granules manufactured by M. Chanteaud, the eminent French pharmacien. But recently I have used a solution of the alkaloid (Merck's crystallised) in rectified spirits of wine, of the strength of one grain in two drachms. One minim of this solution thus contains $\frac{1}{120}$ grain of the drug, which can either be administered in a mixture with a little dill water, or may be used to form lozenges with sugar of milk.

Kineton, Warwickshire.

THE Bristol Royal Infirmary has received, from "A Friend," a donation of £500.