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PART I.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. VIII.—*Liquor Sodæ Chloratæ: A few Observations upon its Effects.* By ROBERT T. COOPER, M.D., T.C.D., Southampton.

THE *Liqueur de Larbarraque*, as the liquor sodæ chloratæ is sometimes called, is a preparation that belongs to a rapidly increasing list of favourite remedial agents—namely, such as possess the property of arresting or otherwise modifying the putrefactive process, and rivalled by such drugs as carbolic acid, chloride of aluminium, permanganate of potash, it runs the risk of being supplanted without sufficient reason. On the contrary, an extensive acquaintance with the therapeutic effects of chlorinated soda has convinced me that it possesses most important properties. It is very generally admitted that most salts of chlorine are valuable disinfecting and deodorizing agents when applied to the seat of foetid discharges, and that their effects are due principally and proportionately to the facility with which they part with their chlorine. That this does not fully account for the beneficial effects of chlorinated soda, we are much inclined to think; at all events, if it does, chlorine must henceforth be looked upon as a much more valuable drug than it has been. Chlorinated soda has long enjoyed a favourable reputation as an application for suppurating and cancerous ulcerations, leucorrhœal and other catarrhal discharges, but I am not aware that it is generally supposed that, taken internally, it has a plainly marked stimulating effect upon

relaxed states of the uterine and peri-uterine tissues; that it gives tone to the weakened utero-sacral ligaments, increases vaginal contraction, removes the bearing down and tendency to prolapse, diminishes congestion of the neck of the womb, thereby lessening very considerably leucorrhœal^a and menorrhagic discharges; and yet this is what we claim for it, and more than this, that along with the removal of the original affection, the casual congestion, comes agreeably to the *tolle causam* principle, the more or less entire subsidence of sympathetic disturbances, the sacral, ovarian, rectal and vesical distress, the hypochondrial tumefaction, the gastric and precordial sinkings, the sub-mammary stitch, chest pains, and headaches, a pretentious assertion certainly, but one that an extensive experience with it more than justifies. Nor need we hesitate to speak freely, as the condition of system for which we recommend it is every day met with, and every practitioner, even specialists in departments of medicine remote from uterine, must be aware that their daily concourse with disease brings them into contact with affections complicated with and modified by this more than common uterine enfeeblement.

Like most efficacious remedies, the liquor sodæ chloratæ can disturb as well as control the nervous system, and therefore it requires to be administered in doses graduated according to the nervous susceptibilities of each invalid and the nature of the affection under which they suffer. The dose given in Squire's *Companion to the Pharmacopœia*, namely, ten to twenty drops, is much too large for our present purpose; the uterine maladies calling for its employment can be controlled, as we have confirmed by experience, with much smaller quantities. The method of administration we recommend is to put two or three drops of the ordinary commercial solution in half a tumblerful of water, and direct a dessert spoonful of this to be taken occasionally. This will be found quite sufficient, and in susceptible persons disturbing effects even may be noticed. Should symptoms of the medicine disagreeing occur, such as rapid emaciation and influenza-like debility, which is one of its most uniformly unfavourable symptoms, it ought to be forthwith discontinued, and the patient advised to remain without medicine for some time.

As this paper is chiefly tentative, I refrain from enlarging upon what I feel sure is a very important matter, my object being to

^a It does not, nor does any internal remedy that we know of, cure a chronic leucorrhœa.

elicit the teachings of others' experience rather than to ventilate my own; this only by way of explanation: I by no means would be understood as asserting that chlorinated soda can cure without exception every case of uterine congestion; it can cure a great many—more than any other drug it has been my good fortune to come across.

In ulceration of the neck of the womb, hypochlorite of soda, by reducing congestion, gives great relief, but I leave for others to determine what is its relative value in comparison with the favoured method of treatment by stimulating applications. We do not wish to express any opinion whatever upon this particular, feeling that in such quarters we stand upon holy ground; but we think we may allowably infer that, judging from its influence over ulcerations in other parts of the body, and especially over ulcers of the legs in women subject to uterine disease, its place as a constitutional remedy in the hands of the gynæcologist must in time prove to be an important one.