IV.

CASES OF TIC DOULOUREUX, IN WHICH CYANURET OF POTASSIUM HAS BEEN EMPLOYED WITH SUCCESS.

By M. le DOCTEUR LOMBARD, of Geneva.

THE cyanuret is employed in friction: it is either dissolved in distilled water, or made into an ointment with pure hog's lard, and used in either form, according to circumstances. From one to four grains in an ounce of water, is the quantity usually employed for the aqueous solution: from two to four grains in an ounce of lard is the composition of the ointment. It may be mentioned that the aqueous solution is in general of the two forms the more prompt and instantaneous in its effects.

CASE I.—*Facial Neuralgia instantaneously cured by the Hydrocyanate of Potash in Friction.*

A lady, of robust habit, 49 years of age, was a martyr to the most agonizing occasional attacks of pain in the space between the temporal region and the ciliary arch and the maxilla. She used to scream violently in these torturing accessions, and sometimes lost all appearance of sensibility to such a degree that she has been supposed to be struck with apoplexy. Pulse 84; face rather flushed; no functional derangement. She was ordered to be rubbed with the aqueous solution, containing sixteen grains of cyanuret of potassium in four ounces of distilled water: it was rubbed on the forehead and cheek with a ball of cotton. The pain gave way almost instantaneously at the very first application; and seemed, as the patient said, to be rubbed away with the hand. A complete cure was

effected by persevering a little while in the use of the remedy.

CASE II.—*Periodic Neuralgia removed by the Ointment of the Cyanuret.*

The cure in this instance was less prompt, but not less certain. A lady, 38 years of age, experienced the severest pains in the temporal region and upper jaw of the left side: they came on regularly every morning at four o'clock; went on increasing in severity until about ten, and did not cease till four in the afternoon. In that interval she labored under anorexia, fever, headache, &c., and was almost driven distracted. She was bled to twelve ounces to relieve congestion, and then the ointment was applied to the cheek and temple. Two grains to the half ounce of lard were at first employed, but the improvement was more rapid under the application of ten grains to two ounces. Lotions of the cyanuret were eventually used, and the cure was complete.

CASE III.—*Facial Neuralgia almost immediately cured.*

A lady, 20 years of age, suffered for several days, at the same hour, the most torturing pains in the orbital and supramaxillary regions. Her face was much flushed, particularly on the affected side. Ten grains of the cyanuret were dissolved in four ounces of the distilled water, and rubbed on with cotton. The application was quite successful.

CASE IV.—*Chronic Occasional Neuralgia similarly treated.*

A woman, of 80, who had long suffered from irregular attacks of this complaint, was cured by lotions and frictions, compounded pretty strongly, and continued for some time.

The cyanuret of potassium is contra-indicated where the nervous affection is complicated with inflammatory action, discharge, &c. It is a useful remedy in non-inflammatory rheumatism.

In sciatic neuralgia it has not been successful—nay, it has been necessarily discontinued, on account of some unpleasant accidents which it occasioned.

In white swelling, attended with acute pain, poultices moistened with the solution, had the effect of producing much comfort, though the continuance of their application had no promise of amendment in it.

It is, on the whole, inferred, that the calming properties of this remedy are superior to those of any other known, and that it should always have a preference where inflammation does not exist. Lotions, with hydrocyanic acid, are by no means to be compared with it, for the acid is decomposed with facility, and scarcely to be used without danger.

The first application of the cyanuret in the above way is claimed by M. Buttigny and his brethren of Geneva, but is disputed with them by Messrs. Robiquet, Villamé, and Bally, of Paris.

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V.

FORMIDABLE CASE OF PUERPERAL FEVER—CURED.

By JOHN C. HOWARD, M.D., Physician and Surgeon to the House of Industry at South Boston.

For the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.

PERHAPS there is no disease more formidable than puerperal fever; and, although the best treatises have been written, giving accurate accounts of its symptoms, mode of

access and progress, still the treatment is by no means settled.

Puerperal fever, as it usually occurs, may be called the fever of child-bed, and is accompanied by pain which has no complete intermission, and extreme soreness of the abdomen; these are peculiar and characteristic symptoms, and really belong to it, and however different the notions entertained of its nature, the above symptoms are always present. With regard to this fever it may be remarked, that it is a disease comparatively rare, and although a very serious one, it is not malignant, and by no means necessarily fatal. As regards contagion (for it has been called contagious), I cannot think it any more so than common inflammation of the bowels.

Of puerperal fever there are, I conceive, two varieties, and although resembling each other in some points, still requiring a marked difference of treatment. The first form of the fever I would call the tonic congestive, and highly inflammatory. In this the patient may or may not be plethoric; but, at any rate, she has not lost much blood from flooding after delivery, and the milk ceases to flow, the lochiæ become scanty, if not entirely suppressed, and the bowels are constipated;—all of which cannot take place without very great suffering and pain, and exceeding tenderness of the abdomen, indicative of acute inflammation of the peritoneum. There are also symptoms of congestion of the brain, and a very frequent and full pulse. Bleeding, which is the *sine qua non* in practice at the present day, and is perhaps too frequently resorted to, may be of decided advantage in this form of fever; and is, I have no doubt, occasionally indicated.