HOSPITAL REPORT.¹

CLINICAL SERVICE OF DR. WM. PEPPER,

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Treatment of Typhoid Fever. — Beginning with the second week of the disease, when the abdominal symptoms of pain and diarrhœa have fully set in, one quarter of a grain of nitrate of silver with one twelfth of a grain of belladonna, and from one sixth to one half of a grain of the watery extract of opium, are exhibited in pill form three times a day after meals. Under this treatment diarrhœa and tenderness have diminished, and patients have made very rapid recoveries. In most cases very little stimulus is used. Milk and beef tea are the only articles of food allowed. Quinia is given with other tonics. Fever is reduced by frequent spongings of the skin of the entire body. When the high fever resists sponging, cool baths are employed. Indiscriminate bathing in typhoid fever is often extremely injurious. The best time for the use of the cold bath is in the early stage, during the first week or ten days, in cases where the temperature rises above 103°, and is not controlled by frequent spongings, large doses of quinia (quinia acts most admirably both in this and other diseases as an antiphlogistic), diaphoretics, etc. When the fever in subsequent stages runs high, it is of the nature of a sympathetic fever, largely dependent on the amount of intestinal lesion; hence cold baths are less valuable at that time and attended with more risk. Nitrate of silver is used both with the hope of limiting the amount of the specific follicular catarrh of the intestines, and with the intention of favorably modifying the secondary sympathetic symptoms. The very best results are also obtained by the continuous use of nitrate of silver in chronic inflammation of the bowels and in gastric ulcer. The nitrate is given in doses of a third of a grain a couple of hours after meals. Dr. Pepper has cured *thirty-nine* out of the *forty* cases of typhoid fever in which it has been employed, by this nitrate of silver treatment.

Goitre. — A great number of cases of this affection have applied for treatment here within the past year. The majority of the cases have occurred in women, and have been intimately connected with some uterine trouble. The successful mode of treatment is by hypodermic injections, of from six to ten minims of a solution containing ninety-six grains of ergotine to the ounce of distilled water, well into the substance of the enlarged thyroid gland. The injection is repeated two or three times a week for the space of from four to six months, when the gland becomes thoroughly hardened. It begins to shrivel with the stoppage of the injections, and very soon returns to its normal size. Ergotine is of no value in bronchocele, but only in cases of simple enlargement of the thyroid gland. The injection is attended with very little pain, and this is generally local or referable to the origin of the sterno-cleido mastoid muscle. Injections of ergotine have also been made locally in both tonsillitis and adenitis, with good results.

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Chronic Dysentery. — There have lately been two well-marked cases of this disease in the medical wards. In the first case the treatment was by the late Professor Simon's proposed method, by "gravity injection." The Simon apparatus is very simple, consisting of an ordinary funnel with an elastic tube attached, some six or eight feet in length. The liquid to be injected is poured into the funnel. The height at which the funnel should be held depends upon the amount of resistance to be overcome and the quantity of the injection. In this case a solution of nitrate of silver, varying in strength from eight to fifteen grains to the quart of water, was introduced into the bowel. At first a pint, and later a quart of the solution was injected once or twice daily; afterwards once in two days. The injection was retained for from five to ten minutes. Its retention gave no pain with the exception of a slight burning sensation when the stronger solution was injected. The stools became formed and less bloody very soon after the inception of the new treatment, and in three weeks or so the patient was entirely convalescent.

The second case refused entirely to improve under this kind of treatment, but yielded completely to a pure milk diet. A quarter of a grain of calomel and ten grains of bismuth were given three times a day for the space of two days before beginning the pure milk diet.

[The "gravity injection" has also cured a case of intussusception in a child, completely disengaging the invaginated bowel.]

Local Rheumatism. — To subdue the painful state of the muscle, injections of one eightieth of a grain of atropia and one eighth of a grain of morphia well diluted should be made into the body of the muscle. This somewhat heroic mode of procedure has been invariably followed by the most excellent results. The patient, who, before the injection, was so sore that he could scarcely move without bringing on the most excruciating pain, after the injection holds his head up, feels the place where the application was made, then moving a little finds that his pain has gone, and looks and speaks the most intense gratitude. This is a particularly useful method of treatment in practice among the poorer classes, and by the almost instant relief it affords will win for the doctor the warmest consideration. Great care must always be had in the administration of morphia and atropia to nursing women, as belladonna is the most powerful antilactagogue known, and too large doses of morphia not infrequently affect the child through its mother's milk.

Chronic Articular Rheumatism. — In one case the rheumatism, which was at first general, had become concentrated under the instep and in the sole of the foot. Its effects were intensified by the extreme natural flatness of the foot, which threw all the weight of the body on the instep and the middle of the sole, where the tissues were as hard and thick as under the heel. There was much ankylosis of the joints, and the plantar nerves were pressed upon and irritated by the indurated tissues. The treatment has been by manipulation of the ankylosed joints and counter-irritation applied to the nerve trunk higher up the leg. The continued current with the positive pole placed over the point of tenderness, and the negative pole higher up the nerve, may also be employed. A shoe should be constructed which shall take the strain off the painful point and throw the weight of the body on the outside of the foot,

In the second case, rheumatism of the ankle-joints in a young girl with marked rheumatic diathesis was brought on by scrubbing in her bare feet. The girl was able to notice the fact that the pain and soreness always increased before and during bad weather. The persistent use of iodide of potassium in the form of Zollikoffer's mixture has been followed by the best of results.

A CASE OF FRACTURE AND ONE OF DISLOCATION OF THE PATELLA.

MESSRS. EDITORS. — The subject of fractured patella has come somewhat into notice recently, and a number of cases, with their treatment, have been reported in the JOURNAL, and descriptions of apparatus, both simple and more complex, given. I think the treatment and appliances for this injury are very simple indeed, and to illustrate I will, with your permission, give you a case which occurred in my practice over thirty years ago, — the only case I ever happened to have, for I believe this kind of fracture is comparatively rare.

The patient was a gentleman some seventy years old. While walking, in the month of March, he stepped upon a large stone which was nearly buried in the ground and slightly glazed with ice. The foot slipped suddenly back, and his knee came square upon the stone, causing a complete fracture of the pan, transversely. I found the two fragments of the bone separated about one and one half inches. This occurred early in my practice. I had never seen a case, and hardly recollected of reading of one, but I knew that to effect a perfect cure the parts must be put in juxtaposition and kept there. My greatest or only fear was that the old gentleman would not be able to bear the confinement which the case would require, as he had been a man of active habits; but he said he would try. As near as I can recollect, my treatment was this: I placed the limb on a straight ham-splint properly padded; I cut two strips of good adhesive plaster about eighteen inches long and one and a half wide; I brought the separated pieces of bone perfectly together; one strip of the plaster I applied above the patella, bringing the ends down diagonally on each side of the leg and caused it to adhere firmly; the other I applied above the bone and brought it up the sides of the leg similarly to the other, which for the time kept the parts together. I then took a piece of soft sole leather, about four inches square, and made a hole in it that would accurately fit the patella; this was kept in place by a bandage around the knee, to be wet with alcoholic lotion as the case might require. There was no further trouble except in keeping the patient quiet. A complete bony union resulted, and in a few weeks the old gentleman was walking about attending to his business without crutch or cane.

Let me also report a case of dislocation of the patella which I had two weeks ago, occurring to a young lady some seventeen or eighteen years old, while in a game of blind-man's-buff. This accident, I believe, is much less frequent than the fracture of the bone. Indeed, I have never before seen a case except where the knee-joint itself was dislocated.

Late in the evening, on the 12th of September, I was sent for in haste to