

prosecutions in the case of ignorant persons who were very obstinate. In cases, however, where the tendency might be to inflict an injury upon the medical officer, the boards of guardians must take the onus of prosecutions upon themselves, or carry out my suggestion of appointing public prosecutors.

Winslow, Bucks, Oct. 1870.

ON THE VALUE OF TINCTURE OF ARNICA IN THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE PULMONARY AFFECTIONS.

By C. C. BALDING, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

I AM desirous of calling the attention of the profession to the value of tincture of arnica in the treatment of pneumonia and other acute pulmonary affections. Some years ago Mr. Mitchell Henry, then assistant-surgeon at the Middlesex Hospital, wrote an article in THE LANCET advocating its use in allaying irritative traumatic fever. A few weeks after the appearance of that article I was summoned to a man, a railway porter at this station, who had been squeezed between the buffers of two trucks. I found the sternum depressed, and, consequently, dislocation of sternal ends of both clavicles; he was suffering acute pain in the chest, and was almost in a state of collapse, and, from his condition, I feared injury to the lungs. With difficulty I got the sternum in position, and when he rallied, which he soon did, I gave him five minims of tincture of arnica every four hours. To my surprise, the pulse kept down; he had no febrile disturbance whatever, and in a few weeks resumed his usual occupation.

It then struck me that a drug exercising such a powerful effect upon the heart's action must be of benefit in acute pneumonia, and I determined to give it a trial, and it was not long before I had an opportunity of doing so. Its good effects exceeded my hopes, and since then I have treated all my cases of acute pneumonia in adults with the remedy, for such I must call it, as I have never known it to fail. I employ it also in acute hæmoptysis; but when there is extensive tubercular disease of the lungs I have not found it lower the circulation. A case of hæmoptysis and one of pneumonia have just come under my care, and these being similar to many others, I will simply give them, thinking the result of the treatment so striking that the profession will be induced to give it a fair trial.

Bernard T—, aged twenty years, a strong, muscular young man, a brickmaker, attended at my surgery, four miles from his own home, on Sept. 1st. He was seen by my assistant, Mr. P. P. Langford, who reported him suffering from acute febrile disturbance. He advised the patient to get home as quickly as he could and go to bed.

On the 3rd Mr. Langford visited him, and found that he was suffering from acute pleuro-pneumonia of the right side. Posteriorly there was dulness over nearly the whole of the lung, with friction sound and some small crepitation in the upper part. At the base of the left lung, for about two fingers' breadth posteriorly, the mischief had commenced. Pulse 100, full and incompressible; respiration not taken. Mr. Langford told me of the case before prescribing, when I advised him to give ten-minim doses of tincture of arnica, with solution of acetate of ammonia, every three hours.

Sept. 4th.—I visited him. His countenance was then dusky and anxious; pulse 100; respiration 60. The physical signs of the inflammation showed that it had not extended since the previous day. To continue the medicine.

5th.—Seen by Mr. Langford. Pulse 85; respiration not taken. Medicine to be taken every four hours.

6th.—Pulse 80; respiration 40; countenance improved. Continue medicine.

7th.—Pulse 72; respiration 32; small crepitation audible in upper part of the lung posteriorly. To take the medicine every six hours.

8th.—Pulse 60; respiration 24; lung improving. Continue medicine every six hours.

10th.—Pulse 50, irregular; respiration 30. He was sitting

up in bed, taking a milk mess, when I visited him, and expressed himself as quite comfortable. To take five minims of the arnica three times a day.

12th.—Pulse 60, irregular; respiration 24; right lung normal, except for about two fingers' breadth at base, where there is small crepitation; left lung well. To discontinue medicine.

The rapid absorption of the effused products of inflammation in this case is remarkable, but it is only what I have seen in several others. The persistent effects of the drug also are very noticeable, as I have known the pulse remain at 40 for several days after the medicine has been discontinued, and even after the patient has got about. The case of hæmoptysis is briefly as follows:—

Mr. W. B—, small farmer, aged sixty, came to me on the 18th of August last, and said he had coughed up, he thought, three pints of blood on the previous day. I examined his lung, and did not find any signs of extensive tubercular disease. He had been subject to winter bronchitis, and there were symptoms of an atheromatous state of vessels. Pulse 90, full and incompressible. Ordered ten minims of tincture of arnica, with fifteen of dilute sulphuric acid and syrup, every four hours. His pulse was very soon reduced, and in four or five days was down to 40, and remained so for three or four days; he got about his employment in ten days, and has had no return of the hæmoptysis.

I read a paper on the subject, three years since, before the South Midland Branch of the British Medical Association at Luton. Dr. Prior, of Bedford, then president, entered into the subject, and has since given the remedy a trial. At the last meeting of the Branch Association at Aylesbury, a paper of his, illustrated by cases, was read, which spoke very approvingly of the remedy.

I may state that I used to give but five-minim doses of the drug, but since the Pharmacopœia of 1867 has contained a formula for the tincture, which is evidently weaker than that previously in use, I give ten minims. I must ask those who may be induced to give arnica a trial, not to be dismayed should no benefit be apparent in twenty-four hours, but to continue the medicine, and I feel sure the effects will be unmistakable in forty-eight hours; but I have seldom seen a case really get worse from the time the arnica was commenced.

"I have much pleasure in endorsing the above account of Mr. Balding on the use of tincture of arnica in the case of the man B. T—. When I visited him on Sept. 3rd he was suffering from extreme dyspnoea, almost to exhaustion, with severe general pyrexia, so much so that he could hardly sit up to allow me to examine his lungs posteriorly; and this, coupled with the physical signs of extensive mischief in both lungs, led me to form a very unfavourable prognosis of the case. I am truly surprised at the rapid improvement following the administration of the arnica.

"PHIN. P. LANGFORD, M.R.C.S., L.S.A."

Shefford, Beds, September, 1870.

ACUTE HEPATIC ABSCESS; EARLY PUNCTURE; RECOVERY.*

By F. W. KNAPP, M.D. EDIN.

ON the 7th July last I was requested to see a young farmer, who had, for some time previous, been engaged in felling trees while the thermometer ranged from 80° F. to 90° F. in the shade. His illness commenced five days previous with pain in the belly, which continued unrelieved by purgation. He now complained of severe colicky pains, inability to lie on the left side, great tenderness over the hepatic region, which was very tumid, the indurated edge of the liver extending two inches below the false ribs, and the right rectus muscle being very tense. There was general fever, with a soft quick pulse of 120, high-coloured urine, and a coated tongue. He was treated with calomel and opium, followed by purgatives, and blisters to the side. A certain amount of relief followed, but the swelling increased, and irritative fever kept up.

On the 23rd he had rigors and bilious vomiting. On the

* Dr. Cameron, Deputy Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, has been kind enough to condense and forward this communication.