

the latter plan having the advantage of fixing the protective in position, and applying itself accurately to the part.

I have only now to add a few remarks on the subject of the spray-producer. Besides that worked by the hand, and the large and somewhat cumbrous machine which was exhibited by Mr. Lister at the British Medical Association at Plymouth in 1871, and which is used for all the larger operations in the infirmary, a spray-producer has been lately made, in which, while it acts upon the same principle as the two others, the bellows is worked by the foot instead of by the hand. It consists of a flat bottle, adapted to fit the pocket, which, with the bellows, rests on the ground, while the air and water are conducted in separate but contiguous india-rubber tubes, six feet in length, to the small nozzle which is held in the hand, by means of which the direction of the spray may be shifted with the greatest readiness. A small movable metal cap is provided for the protection of the points at which the spray is generated; and if a piece of muslin be tied over the tube leading to the bellows, so that all the air entering may be roughly filtered, the whole will be found extremely convenient, especially in private practice, as it enables the surgeon to change most ordinary dressings single-handed.

SOME POINTS IN THE THERAPEUTICS OF GELSEMINUM SEMPERVIRENS.

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GELSEMINUM SEMPERVIRENS is a plant growing in the Southern States of North America. Its active properties were discovered by accident. It has been for many years past used in America, chiefly by irregular practitioners. A few months ago I happened to hear of its being employed with very great success in a case of pains in the jaw from decayed teeth, and I determined to make some inquiry into its therapeutical virtues. Mr. Jeffs, the apothecary of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, very kindly prepared for me a tincture by macerating for a week an ounce of the root with eight ounces of proof spirit. All the following observations were made with this preparation.

The cases in which I have found this drug of most use are those of bad toothache, which the patients themselves, and even some practitioners, call neuralgia. Short notes of some of these cases follow.

Mary L—, seventeen years old, came March 10th, 1873, complaining of shooting pains in the right side of the face, which had lasted for nine weeks. There were many decayed teeth. She had taken citrate of iron with benefit, but the pains returned when the medicine was left off. Ordered to take ten minims of the tincture of gelseminum in water every three hours. Came on March 13th, saying that the pains had ceased completely the day following the first administration of the drug. To take now instead the quassia-and-iron mixture of the hospital.

Emma B—, aged twenty, came on Jan. 6th, 1873, complaining of pain in the lower and upper jaws, lasting three weeks, and in the head. Last night had no sleep. The pains last two or three hours and then cease. Many decayed teeth in both jaws. To take fifteen minims of the tincture of gelseminum, in water, every three hours.—Jan. 9th: Pains much relieved; eating brings them on again, as "it strikes cold." To continue the gelseminum.

Richard T—, aged fifty-three, came on March 22nd, 1873, complaining of shooting pains in the upper jaw since Christmas, coming on about four o'clock every day and lasting till midnight; many decayed teeth. To take twenty minims of tincture of gelseminum, in water, every three hours.—March 26th: Pains ceased on the afternoon of the 23rd of March, the day after the first visit. To take the quassia-and-iron mixture three times daily.

Fanny S—, aged thirty-eight, came on March 24th, 1873, complaining of pains in the face lasting for fourteen days; throbbing, paroxysmal; gums swollen; many decayed teeth. To take twenty minims of tincture of gelseminum, in water, every three hours. She came again on March 27th, saying the pains were bad all the night of the

24th, but ceased on the 25th, and had not returned. She now only feels weak. To take the quassia-and-iron mixture.

These are four cases taken at random out of twelve others of the same nature. In nearly all these the patients said they found relief on the same day; the rest were better after a longer use of the medicine. In one case, however, of true neuralgia or tic douloureux, in a woman aged forty-two, treated towards the end of last December, no relief was obtained with gelseminum or the hydrate of croton chloral. Great difficulty was found in keeping the twelve patients mentioned above under observation; in only two cases did they come a third time to the hospital, so that no further history of them can be given.

In cases of chronic rheumatism I have not found the drug to be nearly so useful. I wish, however, to record the particulars of one case, because the improvement does not seem to be coincident with a natural ending of the disease, and because the improvement has been maintained.

James S—, aged fifty-five, came on March 26th suffering from rheumatic pains for the last five years. He says he has "excruciating pains" which pass from the feet up to the middle of the thigh. These pains are always worse at night, so that he spends the greater part of the night walking about the room. He was ordered twenty minims of the tincture of gelseminum every three hours in water. He came again on April 2nd, saying that the pains were greatly diminished, although he still feels them in the feet. But he says he has not had such easy nights for years as during the past week. He was ordered to take the gelseminum only three times a day. He came again on April 9th and 23rd, going on favourably.

In another case of much the same character, a little relief was given; but in all the other cases in which it was tried no benefit could be attributed to the gelseminum. I have not found it of marked service in lumbago, sciatica, pleurodynia, or other pains which we are accustomed to call rheumatic. I have had no opportunity of employing it in acute rheumatism, although I have heard of a case in which the pain was greatly relieved after its administration.

The drug now brought under the notice of the profession has very active properties. Happily, no instance of death is known even in cases in which great quantities of the drug have been given by mistake. It may very likely prove of service in allaying the pain in various other disorders besides those just mentioned, but hitherto I have had no opportunity of any further investigation.

Green-street, W.

A Mirror

OF

HOSPITAL PRACTICE,

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Nulla autem est alia pro certo noscendi via, nisi quamplurimas et morborum et dissectionum historias, tum aliorum, tum proprias collectas habere, et inter se comparare.—MORGAGNI *De Sed. et Caus. Morb.*, lib. iv. Proœmium.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

TUMOUR OF THE SUPERIOR MAXILLA; REMOVAL;
RAPID RECOVERY.

(Under the care of Mr. T. SMITH.)

THE following notes, supplied to us by Mr. Cripps, house-surgeon, are of interest as showing the rapid recovery and little constitutional disturbance following removal of the superior maxillary bone.

H. W—, aged twenty-six, six years ago had a tumour, which was supposed to be myeloid, removed from the right upper jaw. In 1870 the part again became painful at times; and early in the following year she noticed a return of the growth, which had gradually increased in size, and on the 8th of January of this year presented the following appearance:—The right cheek was prominent, giving this side of the face the appearance of a slight general swelling, the eyeball on this side being slightly pushed forward. The upper molar teeth, which were perfectly sound, were somewhat separated from each other, the alveolar border in this portion being considerably hypertrophied. On placing the finger beneath the lip on the front wall of the antrum, a