

my own experiments, many years ago, of abstaining from drink. Never for a day, did I believe, with Dr. Lamb, that man is not a drinking animal. The fact of Dr. Lamb's abstinence and many other considerations, it is true, had weight with me. Besides, my simple habits and general obedience to the laws of health and life made the experiments more easy to me than to most men, and therefore as a lover of science* I felt an increased obligation to make them. I allude, of course, to total abstinence from all drink for nine months and nineteen days in 1838-9; for six months or more in 1840; and then, with a partial suspension of only one or two days, of about eight months more in 1840-1. All this while, too, my perspiration was free but not profuse, urinary excretion not scanty, and every other function well performed. Moreover, I gained a little in weight during the first experiment.

West Newton, July 4, 1852.

Yours truly,

WM. A. ALCOTT.

PHLEGMASIA DOLENS OCCURRING IN A FEMALE, AND NOT CONNECTED WITH THE PUERPERAL STATE.

BY JOHN KELLY, M.D., OF ESPERANCE, N Y.

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ON the 7th of August, 1847, I was called to see Miss S. Scott, in the town of Schoharie, who had been many years feeble and rather leucophlegmatic. She was then laboring under fever, with headache, more on the left side of the head than on the right; pulse strong and tense. I thought it not advisable to bleed at this time, but a week after I bled her to the amount of about z viij . This relieved the head, and perhaps a blister which I put to the nape of the neck had some good effect. The general treatment consisted in the use of blue pill, laxatives and digitalis purpura.

Aug. 23.—Found her symptoms improving, headache gone, and appetite better; yet as her pulse was not quite soft enough to suit me, I thought best to continue treatment. In the absence of her mother about this time, she walked out to the orchard, and soon after complained of a pain in the hip near the joint.

Sept. 2.—Found her left leg some swollen, thigh more so; the inside of thigh excessively tender to the touch, tense, veins enlarged, with rather dark streaks and some hard lumps. The whole limb perfectly useless, giving the sense to her of great weight. The pulse, at this time, was more strong and tense than ever. The tongue had a white coat. Ordered purgatives of Ep. salts and cream of tartar, with an occasional dose of chloride of mercury and febrifuges.

4th.—Pain more intense than ever. Ordered anodynes and a powder of three fourths of a grain of digitalis and eight grains cream of tar-

* My whole life, for the last twenty-five years, has been a life of experiments. Medical men are often charged with making experiments on others, but I have made many more on myself than on my patients. They may be useful to the world, if I should not be called away so suddenly as to leave them unrecorded.

tar every four hours. Local applications of infusion of poppy and hot vinegar.

7th.—Found her no better. Ordered sal. ammoniac dissolved, and laudanum to the most painful parts ; and to be given every four hours, five grains cream of tartar, three fourths of a grain of opium, as she had not slept for three or four days and nights.

9th.—Found her about the same. She wished to be moved often from her back to her side and vice versa. Ordered xxv. grs. calomel, crem. tart. v. grs., digitalis gr. j., every four or five hours.

10th.—Calomel operated favorably. She was easier ; gums slightly affected. The thigh not so much swollen, nor so tender. Ordered pill blue mass and digitalis daily, applying a wash of op. 3 i., sal. ammoniac, 3 jiss., camphor, 3 jss., dissolved in spirits.

11th.—Improving. Continue the same treatment.

12th.—Improving. Continue same treatment, and a cathartic of cream of tartar and jalap.

A few days after the left leg had become better, the right one was also in the same way affected, though not so severely. The fever, which had subsided, came on again, and the same treatment had to be resorted to for the purpose of subduing the constitutional symptoms, which were not so severe as at the time the first leg was affected. For some ten days there was no great improvement, except the swelling subsided measurably ; but the limb continued œdematous for some time, and extremely weak. Indeed she was not able to walk for six or seven weeks after she otherwise improved. Her pulse became more soft, and her appetite improved. Anodynes once or twice a-day, and a pill of socotrine aloes, were continued for some time to compose the nerves and to regulate the uterine system. After a short time her health became confirmed, and ever since she has been one of the most healthy young ladies to be found.

June 20, 1852.

ON THE NUTRITION OF MUSCLES DURING THEIR CONTRACTION.

BY E. BROWN-SEQUARD, M.D., OF PARIS.

IT is generally admitted that when a muscle is in a state of powerful contraction, circulation, and consequently nutrition, are nearly arrested in it.

The well-known fact that we are only able to maintain a permanent contraction in any of our muscles for a short time only, has been explained by a loss of strength occurring, from the supposed insufficiency of their nutrition. I have frequently performed a very simple experiment which proves that the cause of the rapid diminution of the power of our will, in that case, does not exist in the muscles themselves.

The experiment referred to has sometimes been made on my legs, sometimes on my arms ; and it was conducted as follows : I took a weight in one of my hands, and kept my forearm in a state of flexion, so as to form with my arm an angle of only twenty-five or thirty degrees. In that condition some muscles, and more particularly the bi-