

scribe it, and so does Sir Benjamin Brodie, to be taken in a glass of fresh small-beer; stale beer, from its acidity, will not do, and the bitter of the hop assists the stomach in retaining it. I give it in these large doses because in cases of enlarged fatty glands it frequently diminishes them considerably.

A patient with ovarian tumour *may* recover. I have known sixty-six cases, of whom sixty died, and six recovered. This proportion is very small, but in chronic malignant disease it is not so very bad. I knew the wife of a medical man who recovered from ovarian tumour. She was bled, and had opium suppositories, took calomel and opium to combat inflammation, and began taking the solution of potash, in drachm doses, which were afterwards increased to one drachm and a half. She lay in bed for eight months, taking about six drachms of the solution daily. The preparations of iodine have been much recommended, but they sometimes produce severe secondary fever. A young girl had some scrofulous disease of the abdomen, and took two grains of iodine twice daily, the bowels during the time being kept gently open; but it left her nervous system in such a shattered state, and the slightest thing would so agitate her, that when I saw her I was puzzled how to treat her case. When this medicine was first introduced at Geneva, it used to cause abscesses in various parts, and sometimes destroy life. It has been said to produce even sudden death, but that I do not believe. The tincture of iodine acts more powerfully than the hydriodate of potash. Sir Charles Bell has recorded a case of spongy enlargement of the uterus, accompanied with prolapsus, where a ten-inch probe could with ease be introduced, and after using the hydriodate of potash, in drachm doses, three times a day, for some months, no trace of the tumour remained. In my own practice, however, I have found the solution of potash more beneficial than the hydriodate. In the case of Beale the solution has been of very evident service.

EIGHTEEN GRAINS OF BLUE-PILL FATAL IN AN ADULT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Observing that a correspondent of THE LANCET has lately met with some severe cases of salivation, proceeding from the administration of small doses of mercury, and having recently met with a fatal case myself, I think it may be of use to the profession to give the particulars, hoping that others who may meet, or have met, with the like cases, will also publish them, as I have reason to believe that salivation proves fatal much more frequently than is generally allowed.

Mrs. Conn, a married woman, aged 19, applied to me on the 29th of September, in consequence of pain in the right side. The eyes and skin being tinged with bile, I ordered her to take three grains of blue-pill twice daily for three days.

On the 3rd of October I visited her, and found her in a state of ptialism, the bowels confined, profuse perspiration. The pain in the side had subsided. Ordered,

Sulphate of magnesia, two drachms;

Carb. of magnesia, half a drachm; twice daily.

4. Bowels relieved copiously; motions of a dark colour and very offensive; pupils of the eyes very much dilated; complaints of intense thirst, but no pain. Ordered,

Solution of chloride of lime, two drachms;

Water, a pint; to be used as a gargle and lotion for the mouth.

Sulph. of quina, three grains;

Dil. sulph. acid, three drops;

Water, an ounce; to be taken three times a day.

5. Salivation much increased, ulceration of the gums had taken place; breath very offensive; pupils of the eyes much dilated. Continue the quinine and gargle.

6. Sent for early in the morning in consequence of hæmorrhage from the nose; blood black and tarry, and did not coagulate; pupils very much dilated; breath not so offensive as yesterday; bowels regular, motions of a good colour. The limbs (but more especially the arms) covered with purple spots, generally of the size of No. 1 shot, but many larger. Continue the medicine, with rich soup and brandy.

7. All the symptoms aggravated. The pupils extremely dilated, so much so, that the iris was hardly visible; the purple spots have enlarged; the gums have fallen from the teeth, and the teeth are loose; pulse 130, and intermittent.

Comp. Spirit of ammonia, thirty minims;

Water, one ounce; every second hour.

Brandy, soup, &c.

8. Appears to be sinking; pulse fluttering; great restlessness, with picking of the bed-clothes; difficulty of breathing; muscæ volitantes; cold clammy perspiration of sour odour. Continue brandy, ammonia, &c.

9. Died.

As the remedies I employed in this case, as well as in many others, seemed to have little control over the salivation, I shall feel obliged to any of your correspondents who will favour me with the result of their experience in such cases. I am, Sir, your humble servant

JOHN WILLIAM POTTER.

Chipping Ongar, Essex,
Oct. 12th, 1838.