

prognosis in pneumonia does not depend so much on the extent of lung affected as on the amount of toxic symptoms present and the absence of a healthy reaction in the individual attacked. A low range of temperature is not necessarily a favourable sign, especially if accompanied by delirium, scanty expectoration, little cough, and a dry brown tongue.

From my limited experience of the action of pilocarpine I believe that it will occupy a leading place in the treatment of pneumonia. It relieves pleuritic pain and breathing within a few hours of its administration and also seems to hasten resolution, probably by exciting glandular secretion. Its administration is in the majority of cases followed by a rise of temperature of from half a degree to one and a half degrees. One-tenth of a grain hypodermically does not cause profuse perspiration but rarely fails to reduce the temperature within an hour or two. It also cleans the tongue and stimulates the flow of saliva. I have not noticed its repeated administration attended by any undesirable or unpleasant results. One precaution is necessary—namely, to keep the patient warm and especially the feet. I regret that owing to the loss of some notes and temperature charts I have to generalise instead of giving full statistics and details of the cases, but I trust that from the above rough notes—jotted down while on active service in South Africa—I have succeeded in drawing attention to a drug which will frequently prove of practical value in cases of pneumonia.

Bournemouth.

## Clinical Notes:

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL, AND THERAPEUTICAL.

#### METHYLENE BLUE IN THE TREATMENT OF MALIGNANT MALARIAL FEVER.

BY J. M. ATKINSON, M.B. LOND., M.R.C.S. ENG.,  
D.P.H. CANTAB.,

PRINCIPAL CIVIL MEDICAL OFFICER, HONG KONG.

As is well known, quinine has practically no effect on the crescent bodies met with in malignant malarial fever. It is these bodies which, when ingested into the stomach of the mosquito, undergo those changes which terminate in the formation of the germinal rods or sporozoites. These are carried in the body fluid of the mosquito to its salivary glands and are the actual source of infection in man. Hence the importance of finding some drug that will destroy them. I have recently been trying the effect of the internal administration of methylene blue on a Chinese boy, aged 15 years, who was admitted into the Government Civil Hospital on Jan. 24th, 1903, suffering from malignant malarial fever. On examining his blood numbers of crescents were found and as quinine administered for a week had no effect in diminishing these, on Feb. 9th two grains of methylene blue were given thrice daily in the form of a pill. On the 16th, after careful examination, no crescents were to be found in his blood. As the patient was now suffering from gastric disturbance, nausea, vomiting, &c., which I thought might be due to the drug, it was discontinued. The blood was again examined on the 17th and 20th and was found to be free from crescents.

The above is only one case, I admit, but knowing the importance of reporting the effects of any drug which will kill these crescents I send this note.

Hong Kong.

#### A CASE OF RUPTURED OVARIAN CYST.

BY ALFRED CLARK, F.R.C.S. EDIN.

ON March 14th, 1903, I was called to see a married woman, aged 25 years, who had been suffering from severe abdominal pain and metrorrhagia at about fortnightly intervals for three or four months. She had one child three and a half years old and had never been pregnant since. I found her in bed, blanched, restless, with sighing respiration, a feeble pulse of 130 per minute, and a temperature of

102° F. Her abdomen was slightly distended, acutely tender, and rather dull on percussion. The left iliac region was a little more full than the right and was more resistant on palpation. With a hypodermic injection of one-fiftieth of a grain of strychnia her pulse improved somewhat and I had her removed at once to a private hospital where at 10 P.M. Dr. T. G. S. Hodson administered chloroform and I opened the abdomen with an incision four and a half inches in length, the patient being in the Trendelenburg position. There was a large quantity of blood clot in the abdominal cavity. After removing this I found an ovarian cyst on the left side about as large as an ostrich's egg with a straight rent in its anterior aspect about three inches in length. Venous oozing was still going on from the edges of the rent. The cyst wall was thick and very adherent to the bladder and small intestines. A piece of cyst wall was so intimately adherent to the latter that I had to leave it lest I should tear the bowel. Then I removed the left ovary and examined the right. This had a thin-walled serous cyst as large as an orange, so I removed this also. The operation lasted about 45 minutes as the adhesions made it tedious and the patient was removed to bed in a bad condition and with a very feeble and fluttering pulse, but she rallied after a hypodermic injection of one-fiftieth of a grain of strychnia. She had rather troublesome vomiting of bright-green material for a couple of days and on the second and third days passed some blood-stained mucus from the bowels. Otherwise she made an uninterrupted recovery. I removed the sutures on the fourteenth day and she was discharged a few days later. A fortnight later she called at my house and said she felt better than she had done for a year or more.

Bitterne, Hants.

## 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.

#### SOUTH WIMBLEDON AND MERTON COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

A CASE OF CÆSAREAN SECTION FOR CONTRACTED PELVIS;  
RECOVERY OF THE MOTHER AND CHILD.

(Under the care of Dr. MARTIN RANDALL and  
Dr. A. H. GERRARD.)

IN this case, which was one of full-term pregnancy, the patient was a primipara, aged 21 years. The pains commenced slightly on August 24th, 1902. On the 26th the patient was seen by Dr. A. H. Gerrard when he found the waters broken and the head presenting above the brim. He came to the conclusion that the pelvis was greatly contracted and he asked Dr. M. Randall to see the case with him. The patient was a small woman but not obviously malformed. Her general condition was good. The pains were regular and strong, the membranes were ruptured, and the os was of about the size of a five-shilling piece. The head could be felt freely moveable higher up. The sacral promontory was very large and projecting, the diagonal conjugate being under three inches. The estimate on measuring was two and seven-eighths inches; this would indicate a true conjugate of not much over two and a half inches. As the head appeared on abdominal palpation to be of normal size, the alternative of craniotomy or Cæsarean section was put to the patient and her friends and the latter was chosen. The patient was removed to the hospital. Dr. D. Findlay administered ether and Dr. Gerrard and Dr. T. Brice Poole assisted at the operation. A hypodermic injection of one-twenty-fifth of a grain of strychnine was given and the vagina was washed out with a 1 in 1000 solution of biniodide of mercury.

After opening the abdomen a piece of stout elastic tubing was passed behind the uterus to the cervix. This was rendered very easy by a thick copper wire passed along the bore of the tubing; the wire was removed as soon as the