

acute. But nearly the same medicinal agents are to be had recourse to in either sort. However, some slight modifications must be observed. The diaphoretics in chronic gout may be more stimulant than in acute. Thus the compound tincture of gualiacum, which is even hurtful in the latter, is well borne in the former. Opiates may be also more freely used. And now, also, alteratives become necessary, the digestive organs beginning to participate in the general derangement; the biliary and other secretions to be less regular and efficient, chylification less perfect, and defæcation less active. Friction with a pommade, or soft ointment of four grains of veratrine in one ounce of lard, may be applied to the affected part; and a solution of veratrine, consisting of one grain thereof in two ounces of distilled water, a twelfth to an eighth part to be taken twice or thrice a day, or oftener, in a draught.

The treatment of metastatic gout is simple, though, not for that reason, always satisfactory or successful. What I mean is, that the indications are obvious. We must endeavour by sinapisms, hot pediluvia, blisters, stimulant frictions, to keep the gout in the feet or hands, or recal it thither.

If the stomach is attacked, we must give cold or iced drink, with opium in it, the feet being simultaneously plunged in hot water with mustard dissolved in it. If the head is the seat of metastasis, while the feet are treated in the manner just stated, cold evaporating lotions must be applied on the temples, forehead, and occiput. If the heart is affected by metastatic gout, there is great danger, for we know not what to do. The best way is not to interfere with the heart at all, but vigorously to apply derivation and counter-irritation to the extremities. As to the practice recommended by some of giving hydrocyanic acid in metastasis of gout to the heart, it is mad advice, and is not more reasonable than if, with a view to make a paralytic man steady, we made him drunk.

Ill-developed, or *covert* gout, (we name it so in contradistinction to *overt* gout,) is not the least important or least common form of this malady. It is, perhaps, the most frequent, and, in some senses, the most serious. Considerable observation has satisfied me, that to smouldering gout are due many anomalous affections and pains which go under the names of hysteria, hypochondriasis, gastrodynia, neuralgia, cephalalgia, tic douloureux, spinal disease, nephritic derangement, &c. Readers may refer to what is already said on this subject at page 199 of *THE LANCET* of the 20th of February, 1847, where the subject under consideration is discussed.

Bentinck-street, Manchester-square.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE TREATMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.

By CHARLES SIMPSON, Esq., Surgeon, Stamford.

In uterine hæmorrhage, the alarm and the fatality are sometimes so sudden, that any means which may fairly be considered serviceable in such an emergency cannot but be received by the profession with avidity.

In treating a case of hæmorrhage immediately after delivery, on the 2nd instant, another opportunity occurred to me of verifying the utility of a physiological suggestion which I advanced some time since. (*Vide THE LANCET*, December, 1842, p. 437, and Dr. Marshall Hall's New Memoir, 1843.) The patient appeared to be rapidly sinking from the loss that had occurred. The pulse could not be felt. The features presented that ghastly appearance so characteristic of uterine hæmorrhage after delivery, in which the expression of exhaustion and prostration are so frightfully combined. Consciousness had ceased. I filled the mouth with brandy-and-water, but no endeavour to swallow followed. The patient could not will the act preparatory to that of deglutition. Cold water was dashed smartly on the face from a distance, and deglutition instantly succeeded.

Another incident in the treatment of the above case is deserving of record for its intrinsic value, and for the illustration it affords of the practical character of Dr. Marshall Hall's discovery. The muscular apparatus of respiration appeared to share in the general prostration. The function was carried on feebly, slowly, and inefficiently. Could it be aided? In the emergency, I felt the importance and deep interest of this question. To assist the respiration is to assist the circulation; for the more active the former, the more efficient must be the latter. I sat by the bedside, and at intervals blew smartly on the face of my patient. There instantly followed fuller, deeper, and yet gentle inspirations. Thus, as it were, fanning the vital spark, I supported, aided,

and improved the respiration, till evident restoration was effected.

I have frequently used this means of exciting respiration in the new-born infant, but never before in the adult, or in a case similar to the above.

How true is it that physiology cannot be barren; it is prolific of practical medicine!

Stamford, May, 1848.

Reviews.

The Medical Practitioners' Private Register of Cases Professionally Attended. Post 4to, half-bound in morocco, and lettered. London: Smith, (Government Stationer,) Long Acre.

THIS Note-book has just appeared, and we eagerly draw attention to it.

In the mercantile world a supply commonly indicates a demand, and we are glad in being enabled, from the appearance of this "Register," to draw the inference, that the members of our profession are becoming so methodical in their observations on disease, as to render it worth the while of stationers to supply note-books for their exclusive use. In that now before us, (which, it appears, is issued "under sanction of the Registrar-general,") we are much gratified to perceive that, by a judicious arrangement, the practitioner is saved as much as possible the loss of valuable time, and of labour, in keeping his record; he has only to note down the chief circumstances of the cases he attends, in columns already ruled and prepared for the purpose, after the following manner:—

Memoranda of Cases Professionally Attended.

No. &c.	PATIENT'S Name, Residence, Profession, State, and Habits.	Sex and Age.	DISEASES.			Dates and important Facts in each Case.
			Primary and Secondary.	Dates of their Appearance.	Dates of Recovery or Death.	
				18 .	18 .	

On the advantages of preserving memoranda of the various cases of disease which fall under notice it would be superfluous to dilate. In the preface to the Note-book it is truly remarked,—

"Disease assumes many special peculiarities in different individuals—dependent on bodily conformation, temperament, idiosyncrasy, locality, and habits,—and it may safely be affirmed that aberrations from normal health are no more precisely similar, in even two instances, than the subjects of them are exactly alike in features, or other physical characteristics. Although, by common consent, specific names are applied to separate groups of morbid symptoms, as typhus, small-pox, hooping cough, &c,—the maladies themselves, and especially those of the zymotic class, present in their different instances such multifarious special phenomena, that it can scarcely ever be anticipated in practice, that examples will be met with of a disease running, in every minute respect, precisely the course indicated as its general career in the text-books to which the profession are accustomed to refer for its history. It is natural that this should be the case, because such text-books, valuable as they are, and the results of the most careful observation and narrow research, present, for the most part, the experience of only a comparatively small number of practitioners. Diseases, also, in situations geographically different, present widely varying characters, and they are apt, in the progress, not merely of centuries, but of cycles and minor periods of time, to assume fresh features,—whether owing to changed meteorological or geological influences, sanitary conditions, or altered conformation and habits of nations and communities,—especially amongst the races of mankind which have advanced farthest in civilization. The integrity of the group of symptoms will never be equally prominent in all the subjects of a disease, nor, indeed, will the several members of the