

sily replied to as the question here proposed may be, from a bare reference to the greatly diseased condition of the heart, yet the gentleman to whom I have above alluded, strange as it may appear, entertained the, I must say, very shallow idea, that the hæmorrhage in question was "the effect of blows or falls inflicted on the head." An opinion formed such as this, without taking into account the surely not unimportant influence, referable to the organic cardiac disease,—an influence which must, under the high excitement of anger and great muscular action, have been called, at the moment, into very powerful operation,—was, I submit, wholly unsupported by the pathological facts revealed on the *post-mortem* inspection; and, under other circumstances, where the provocations given on the part of the deceased, together with his entire willingness to end the dispute by another immediate recourse to physical force, could not have been so clearly established, by as equally direct and respectable testimony, it most likely would, *per se*, have placed the prisoners in a rather serious position.

In my evidence on the inquest (as, for some reason with which I am not, at present, acquainted, I was not afterwards called on, by a superior court, either for its confirmation, or if necessary, upon ulterior reflection, its modification), I took the liberty of dissenting, *in toto*, from this opinion, and I did so chiefly from the very cogent reason, that it entirely excluded, without the least allusion to, an important, if, indeed, not the *sole*, link in the chain of causation. I allude to the intimate connection which has been discovered to exist between hypertrophy of the left ventricle of the heart and apoplexy, whether cerebral or meningeal. Indeed, the relationship between these two, as cause and effect, has been justly viewed by a distinguished modern writer (Dr. Hope), as one of the best established doctrines in modern pathology. The observations, too, of Drs. Macartney, Alison, and Mackintosh, with, in fact, all our best pathologists, which observations are, it will not be disputed, well embodied in the above hypothetical fact of Dr. Thomson's,—all go to confirm this most important position. Hence, in the case just detailed, the leaving wholly out of account this, to say the least, very influential item in the category of causes, which induced the fatal hæmorrhage, must appear to every candid mind, as a singular oversight on the part of my medical friend, for which, it must be confessed, I cannot at all account; and in thus laying this statement of facts, relating to it, before the profession, I beg it to be distinctly understood, that, as a humble but ardent admirer of scientific truth, I am influenced by no other motive than a sincere regard for the cause of justice, so that, in

cases of a similar nature, which, it may be safely presumed, are not uncommon, the medical practitioner, whilst accurately balancing the exact amount of importance which may attach to each particular cause respectively, in operating a fatal result, will not, as in the present instance, culpably overlook this highly interesting relationship between organic disease of the heart, and apoplexy, and softening of the brain; but, when the former affection is present, will attach to it all the importance to which it may be legitimately entitled. I am, Sir, your very obedient and much obliged servant,

J. JOHNSTON KELSO, M.D.
Lisburn, August 18th, 1837.

CASES ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE
TREATMENT OF FEVER
BY
SALINE MEDICINES.

By C. R. BREE, Esq., M.R.C.S.

IN THE LANCET of October 1st, 1836, I inserted three cases illustrative of the effects of the administration of saline medicines in morbid conditions of the blood. Since that time I have followed a similar line of practice in numerous cases, where I had reason to fear an actual or a threatened deterioration of the vital fluid. The able experiments of Dr. Stevens have proved that in fevers of a congestive character there is a deficiency of the saline constituents of the blood, and from this fact we may fairly assume that there is a disposition to this change in fevers of a milder form; and, hence, we may form a rational *prophylactic* mode of treating these diseases.

There can be no doubt about the usefulness of saline medicines in fever. Few cases are ever treated without them; but it was not until the work of Dr. Stevens was published, and the powerful aid of chemistry in modern days directed attention to the alterations produced by disease in the constituents of the blood, that their *modus operandi* was clearly understood. It is not improbable that many lives are saved by saline medicines, in the treatment of simple fever. We all know the tendency which fever of the mildest form has to assume a typhoid character, and we have every reason for inferring that we prevent this by imbuing the system with saline matter, a deficiency of which, as is exemplified in Asiatic cholera and congestive fever, is incompatible with existence.

It is impossible, however, to lay down any fixed rules for the treatment of fever. An improved system of therapeutics has shown that diseases of all kinds must be treated, not according to the name they bear, but in

accordance with the symptoms they present. Thus, mercury is one of the most useful medicines in the majority of fever cases; and it would be culpable to omit in the treatment so valuable and well-established a remedy. This renders it difficult to assign to each medicine its particular and just value. It appears to me, however, that the most rational way of treating disease is to *unite* as much as possible the powers of known and efficient remedies. Thus, saline medicines may *check* morbid alteration in one case, and *prevent* it in another, and the powerful aid of mercury in either case, by acting upon the secretion, may promote the absorption of the medicine into the system.

In the following cases, therefore, I have treated the disease according to the symptoms that presented themselves. I do not wish to attach more value than it deserves to the influence of the saline medicines, but merely to relate, briefly, the cases as they occurred, and draw attention to the principle by which my treatment was directed.

CASE 1.—*Synochus*. S. H., ætat. eight, was attacked on the 25th of May with pain in the head and abdomen, succeeded by cold chill, restlessness, heat of skin, and other symptoms of fever. Bowels costive; pulse 120; urine high-coloured and scanty; tongue white and furred. To have *jalap* and *calomel* gr. xij. immediately, and, the bowels being relieved, *nitrate of potash* gr. vj. in four hours.

26. Pain increased; face more flushed; skin hotter. Bowels not having been relieved freely, I ordered the following:—R. *Sulph. of magnes.* ʒiv; *Ipecac. wine*, ʒiss; *Sp. of nit. æther*, ʒiss; *Saline mix.*, ʒj; *Water*, ʒij. M. One large spoonful every other hour; and when the bowels have been freely relieved, to take *carbon. of soda*, gr. vj., in six hours.

28. Much the same; the fever continues to run high; bowels have been relieved several times; pulse quick; abdomen tender. A cataplasm to the abdomen. Continue the *carb. of soda*, but increase the dose to 10 grains.

29. Better. Per.

31. Better. Per.

June 1. Better in every respect. The soda producing nausea, it was given in excess, with the effervescing draught, for some days, and the patient gradually recovered.

CASE 2.—*Synochus*. S. H., ætat. thirty-three, the mother of the above patient, was attacked with symptoms precisely similar, on the 7th of June. The bowels being confined, a saline aperient mixture was ordered, and on the 8th she was much relieved.

June 9. Symptoms more severe; pain in the head and bones; frequent cold chills, and the heat of the body high; pulse quick and *irritable*; countenance anxious; tongue white and furred. The bowels hav-

ing been freely opened, I ordered the following:—

R. *Tartar. acid*, ʒj. Divide into six powders.

R. *Carbon. of soda*, ʒiss.; *Nitrate of potash*, ʒj.; *Water*, ʒss; mix, make a draught, a sixth part every six hours, while effervescing.

10. She has been restless, and the fever runs high. The bowels confined. To have an aperient mixture immediately. Afterwards continue the saline draught, but increase the *carb. of soda* to two drachms. Let the body be sponged with vinegar and water.

11. All the symptoms are alleviated to-day. Bowels have been freely opened; the heat of the surface is reduced, and the pain in the head is less intense. Pergat.

From this time the patient continued much in the same state for about a fortnight. The case, which was protracted by an irritable constitution, was much assisted by the administration of the following tincture:—

R. *Carb. of soda*, ʒj; *Chlorate of potash*, ʒj; *Comp. cardam. tinct.* ʒvj.; *Infus. of calumba*, ʒviij. Make a mixture; a sixth part three times a-day.

CASE 3.—*Typhus Mitior*. In the following cases, in which the symptoms set in with considerable severity, mercury was found of great assistance.

Louisa R., ætat. twenty-three, was attacked on the 6th of November with cold chills, succeeded by flushing heat, abdominal tenderness, &c. She did not apply for medical advice until the 9th, when I found her in the following condition:—She complained of severe pain and throbbing of the head; the surface of the body was extremely hot, and the abdomen tender; the tongue was loaded with brown fur, and the gums were covered with sordes; pulse 160, small, and rather hard; she had been vomiting and purging all night; the stools were dark-coloured, and very offensive; she has had frequent cold chills, and complains of pain in the back and loins.

Nov. 9. Six leeches to the temples.

R. *Mercury with chalk*, gr. iij.; *Acetate of morphia*, gr. 1-12th. Make a pill, to be taken in four hours. To take also the effervescing tincture, with 10 grains of soda in excess, every four hours.

10. Better. Pergat.

11. Better. Pergat.

12. Better; tongue clearing, and the fever has much abated; the pulse is also reduced. Omit the pills. Continue the soda mixture.

13. Continues to improve.

14. Better in every respect; the bowels are regular, and the colour of the motions is more natural. She gradually recovered, without any alteration in the treatment, and was well in three weeks.

CASE 4.—*Typhus Mitior*. J. G., of Wetherden, ætat. six years and a half, was attacked on the 12th of July, 1837, with cold chills and drowsiness. I saw him on the 15th, and found him labouring under the following symptoms:—He was lying in bed in a stupid state; his skin was hot, his face flushed, and he complained of pain in the back part of his head; his lips seemed to move involuntarily; his breathing was 31 in the minute; pulse quick, and 130; tongue white, and covered with minute red points; bowels confined.

July 15. Apply four leeches behind the ears; afterwards a canthar. blister to the neck; and a spirit lotion to the head. To have jalap and calomel, 15 grains immediately, and when the bowels are well opened the following powder:—

R. *Nitrate of potash*, gr. v.; *Carb. of soda*, gr. x.; every four hours.

17. The pain in the head is relieved, and he is more collected.

19. Complains of pain in the abdomen; the tongue is covered with dark fur; skin still hot; pulse quick; bowels regular, but motions dark. Let the body be sponged with vinegar and water.

R. *Merc. with chalk*, gr. xij.; *Dover's powder*, gr. vj. Mix; make six pills. One every night and morning. To have *carb. of soda*, 10 grains, in mint-water, in three hours.

21. He is better. Pergat.

24. Tongue much clearer; head relieved considerably. He is very weak, but the febrile symptoms are diminished. Let him have mutton broth. Omit the pills.

R. *Carb. of soda*, ʒij.; *Chlorate of potas.* ʒj.; *Infusion of calumb.*, ʒss. Mix; one table-spoonful three times a-day.

Under this treatment he has been gradually improving up to the present time.

The next case occurred in the same parish, at the same time as the last; the symptoms in this case, it will be observed, are somewhat different.

CASE 5.—James Steward, ætat. five years and a half, was attacked with symptoms of fever a few days before I saw him, which was on the 13th of July, when I found him labouring under the following symptoms:—

13. Skin extremely hot; face flushed; had frequent cold chills; abdomen tender; bowels very loose; tongue white, with red points. Three leeches to the abdomen; afterwards a cataplasm.

R. *Merc. with chalk*, gr. xij.; *Dover's powder*, gr. vj. Make six pills. Take one every night.

R. *Carb. of soda*, ʒj.; *Nit. of potash*, ʒss.; *Ipecac. wine*, ʒiss.; *Rose syrup*, ʒiv.; *Water*, ʒvj. Mix; take one table-spoonful in four hours.

15. He is better to-day; the leeches bled

well, and the epigastric pain has been much relieved; skin cooler; tongue moister; and has only two motions daily. Continue the pills. To have *carb. of soda*, gr. x., in four hours.

He continued the above treatment until the 24th, without much change in the symptoms. On that day I found him as follows:—Tongue brown, but moist; pulse 120; complains of pain in the epigastric region; is occasionally very thirsty; bowels regular; motion light coloured; he has cough, and complains of weakness. Let him have mutton broth and light pudding. Apply a cantharis blister to the epigastrium.

R. *Carb. of soda*, ʒij.; *Chlor. of potash*, gr. xv.; *Orange syrup*, ʒss.; *Infusion of columb.*, ʒvj. Mix; take a table-spoonful three times daily.

Aug. 10. He has been gradually improving up to the present time, and is now nearly convalescent.

The last two cases occurred in the parish of Wettenden, and may be taken as examples of the character of thirteen other cases which I have had in the same parish during the last six weeks. The only fatal case was that of a little girl, nine years of age, which was complicated with severe inflammation of the bowels. It was the first case that occurred in the parish, and, as too often happens, the friends neglected to call in medical advice in the early stage of the disease. The typhoid symptoms ran high; there was constant diarrhoea and sickness, which rendered it difficult to keep medicine on the stomach, and the child died before the end of the week.

In the autumn of last year I had a great number of cases of measles, in which their symptoms had a strong tendency to assume a typhoid character. I treated them upon the same principles as the above cases of fever, and with gratifying success. The disease was invariably preceded by diarrhoea, and the eruption was frequently ushered in with symptoms of congestion and collapse, and I found the chlorate of potash (which is a decided stimulant) very useful. The following cases will illustrate my method of treatment:—

CASE 6.—*Rubeola*. S. K., ætat. two years, had diarrhoea, attended with febrile symptoms, for a week. The eruption of measles then appeared, and was out when I saw the child. I found it weak and feverish; the tongue exceedingly red, with a furred patch down the centre; pulse very quick; breath foetid; motions dark coloured; lips and gums covered with sordes.

R. *Mercury with chalk*, gr. xij.; *Ipecacuanha*, gr. j.; *Compound chalk powder*, gr. xij. Mix, and divide into four powders; one night and morning.

R. *Carbonate of soda*, ʒij.; *Chlorate of potash*, gr. x.; *Syrup of ginger*, ʒij.; *Water*,
3 H 2

3ij. Mix; take two small spoonfuls every second hour.

Under this treatment the child gradually recovered.

CASE 7.—*Rubeola*. E. M., ætat. one year and a half, had the measles severely, which left it in a very debilitated condition, with ataxic fever, diarrhoea, foul tongue, and sordes on the lips and gums. I ordered the following, under which it gradually recovered :—

R. *Chlor. of potash*, gr. xv. ad xxx.; *Aromat. confect.*, 3j.; *Carb. of soda*, 3ss.; *Orange syrup*, 3ij.; *Infus. of orange peel*, 3iss. Make a mixture. Take two small spoonfuls three times daily.

I have kept records of many other cases, but as they are, in a great measure, similar to those related, I should only occupy space unnecessarily, were I to relate them.

Stowmarket, Aug. 15, 1837.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

EXPERIMENTS OF BARON DUPOTET.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—On the 17th of this month I was invited by a friend to accompany him to see the experiments of Baron DUPOTET DE SENNEVOYE, at *University College Hospital*. I had witnessed the performance of the snake-charmers in India, and of the necromancer of Grand Cairo so often described. I had seen something of what were called the remains of the *Psylli* in Egypt; and had reduced all these, to my own conviction at least, within the limits of natural causes, and laid an account of them before the public in a magazine conducted by a friend*. As a professed unbeliever in whatever is not proved, I felt not disinclined to add "Animal Magnetism" to my subjects of scrutiny; and this disposition was increased by the circumstance of my daughter having told me that some years ago she was introduced to the Baron at Paris, and proved an impracticable subject, and of my having been lately applied to from the country to consult an eminent physician in town on a case of epilepsy, from whose conversation I had gathered much interesting information on the power of the imagination over epileptic affections, which I could not help surmising I should see confirmed and extended. Add to all this, that I am some relation to Dr. Alderson of Hull, who, I believe, was the first man that exploded the existence of apparitions, by demonstrating that the seeing of apparitions is symptomatic of a certain state of disease; and you will perceive that I was in many ways pledged to not allow-

ing myself to be misled through want of the sceptical virtues. I will therefore offer you the best account in my power of what I witnessed, and the inferences I was disposed to draw; trusting to have credit for having done it in a spirit of fairness throughout, and without the smallest intention of giving pain to any individual.

On our arriving at the hospital, the medical officers, with their pupils, were going their rounds in the men's ward. Though invited to accompany them, I preferred remaining near the head of the stairs, where I had a more general view. In a short time the Baron arrived, a plain, intelligent, unassuming-looking man, with a resemblance, it struck me, to Mr. Vigors the member for Carlisle. I was shown at a distance, in the women's ward, a girl, apparently walking with difficulty, who was stated to be one of the patients on whom the experiments of the Baron had been made; and shortly afterwards another arrived, who, from the attention she attracted, I soon found was the patient *par excellence*, the *prima donna* of the "magnetic" stage. When the medical men had finished in the men's ward, they came into the women's, making, with the visitors, something more than twenty; besides which there were eight or nine women patients in the ward, apparently convalescents or with slight complaints, and two or three women attendants.

The first-mentioned girl was invited to seat herself in an arm-chair in the middle of the ward. She was apparently about twenty years of age, with dark hair, heavy look as if suffering under the effect of some soporific drug, an in-patient of the hospital on account of epileptic fits, and I suspect had partially lost the use of the left side from causes connected with that complaint. The Baron proceeded to draw his hands downwards before her face, sometimes alternately and sometimes both together, in the manner which I believe is pretty generally known as making part of the "magnetic" process. After about a quarter of an hour, the patient was asked how she felt, (the Baron, by the way, not attempting English except under circumstances of urgency,) and on her replying that she thought she felt "a little sleepy," the experiment was declared unsuccessful; though it was intimated that more effect had been produced on a previous occasion. I began to think I was the infidel before whom nothing was fated to be seen.

The other young lady then sat down, with no reluctance, but on the contrary that appearance of self-complacency which attends on conscious eminence in any line. She looked about seventeen years of age, with fair complexion and a profusion of flaxen ringlets, Grecian features and in fact eminently handsome, figure short and slightly inclining to Lord Byron's dislike,

* See No. I. of "Tait's Edinburgh Magazine," article "State of Magic in Egypt."