

and hopeless stage ; and in the case of the Jew, the cascarilla and soda, and the iodine, appeared to be productive of no advantage. At an earlier period of the complaint, the indications would seem to be, to increase the general vigor of the system, to protect them from exposure to cold and inclement weather, to employ iodine externally, and internally to push the use of the caustic potash as far as circumstances might render it allowable.—*London Medical Gazette.*

## BRONCHIAL AFFECTIONS OF CHILDREN.

*On the Treatment of the Bronchial Affections of Children.* By MARSHALL HALL, M.D. F.R.S.E. &c.

I HAVE seen so many deplorable results from the undue employment of bloodletting, and so many happy effects from the use of ipecacuanha in emetic doses, in the bronchial affections of children, that I think it highly important to bring these two subjects before the profession.

According to my experience, bloodletting is ill borne in the bronchial affections of infants. The little patients soon become pale, with glossy cheeks, half-closed eyelids, slight torpor, and a very frequent pulse.

With these symptoms, the bronchial affection is frequently little or not at all improved. There is an undiminished tracheal and diffused bronchial rattle, and frequently a husky voice and croupy cough.

Such cases have been particularly frequent recently. One of the most interesting which I have witnessed, occurred in the little infant of Mr. Wright, surgeon, Howland street, four months old. One leech only had been applied, but it had blanched the countenance, and induced the peculiar waxen hue of the cheeks, so significant of exhaustion. There was slight torpor, and the eyes were only partially closed. There was unrelieved diffused bronchial rattle, and an alarming croupy cough. Further depletion was inadmissible. The case was treated by five-grain doses of ipecacuanha, in the manner about to be described, with the most marked immediate benefit and the happiest result.

In another case, of an infant six months old, in which four leeches had been applied, the pulse had risen to 190 ! A truce from exhausting measures *permitted* the pulse to subside. The infant recovered without the further detraction of blood.

My object, however, is not to detail cases, but to give the general result of my experience. This is, that bronchitis in children neither bears nor requires much bloodletting ; and that such bloodletting is not *the* remedy for bronchitis.

On the other hand, the good effects of repeated emetic doses of ipecacuanha are so striking and so immediate as to leave no doubt of the efficacy of this remedy in this particular case.

In the first place, the mere effect of vomiting, which is first an effort of expiration, and finally full expiration itself, relieves the upper parts of the bronchial tubes of the accumulated mucus.

In the next place, the effect of nausea in subduing the powers of the circulation, and especially of the capillary circulation, is quite remarkable, whilst this effect, being unattended by exhaustion, is totally free from danger.

It is probable, too, that ipecacuanha produces an effect upon the bronchial membrane similar to that observed on the skin. The secretion of mucus succeeds to a state of dryness, and the mucus itself is of less tenacity and easier of expectoration.

However, the rationale apart, I may give the result of my experience in general terms, and say that of all our remedies for bronchitis in children, repeated emetic doses of ipecacuanha, after moderate bloodletting, is the most efficacious. In little infants, five grains may be given and repeated every three, four, or six hours. The dose must generally be augmented to ten or fifteen grains, especially in older children.

To the ipecacuanha I have always added castor oil, in the intervals of sickness.

Blisters and fomentations to the chest are also highly advantageous.

But the principal object of my present communication is to point out the danger and inefficiency of bloodletting, and the extreme value of ipecacuanha, in this particular disease of children. Bloodletting, to be safe, must be administered cautiously. The ipecacuanha, to be efficacious, must be administered in fuller and more repeated doses than those generally prescribed. I have repeatedly known a single emetic dose of ipecacuanha subdue a recent bronchitis; and I have known repeated doses subdue the most inveterate. These repeated doses are not attended by the slightest risk. Let the nausea and the vomiting subside, and the disease will frequently be found to be perfectly removed, whilst the powers of the system are unimpaired. Few remedies of such powers are so free from danger, in the feeble and tender age of infancy. If the disease be obstinate, the remedy may be repeated until it *does* prove efficacious.—*Ib.*

#### SCALDING OF THE THROAT.

*A Case of Scalding of the Throat, in a Child, from drinking boiling Water, cured by opening the Jugular Vein.* By MR. G. O. HEMING, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

MR. EARLE's interesting lecture has brought to my mind a case of the croupy affection, induced in children by drinking hot water, in which the use of bloodletting was distinctly and eminently advantageous. It may, therefore, form a useful addition to the cases placed on record by Dr. Marshall Hall, Mr. Stanley, and Mr. Earle.

John Noyes, aged two years and a quarter, was brought to me, about five months ago, by his father, who stated, that, seven hours previously, he had drunk some hot water from a tea-kettle.

The little boy was breathing with much difficulty, and the sound produced by respiration was similar to that which takes place in croup. There was an incapability of swallowing, and he seemed to suffer great pain.

I bled him from the jugular vein, to a state approaching syncope. The breathing instantly became considerably relieved. A cold lotion was recommended to be kept constantly applied to the throat, and, as he could not swallow, an injection was given to act upon the bowels.