

I first saw her she was in a paroxysm of sneezing, which she said had lasted for several hours. At times she suffered from distressing dyspnoea. She had also a slight cough. General health excellent. Made a solution as follows: Potassæ chloratis gr. xx; morphinæ salphatis gr. iv; aquæ destillat. f3ij. M. And used it by means of Holmes' Perfumer, a form of atomizer—it being the most convenient. The relief was instantaneous. The same application was continued. The patient slept well, and was apparently entirely relieved until the fifth day. The sneezing returned. I then ordered her to use through the same instrument the following: Potassii bromid. ʒj; aquæ f3ij. M. The paroxysm was interrupted as in the first instance. I ordered her to use these solutions alternately, using from six to ten inhalations three times daily, or equal to about one-fourth of a drachm of the mixture. She continued to improve under this treatment, and without another return of dyspnoea or sneezing, until the 15th of September, when she discarded the use of the spray, being entirely well.

J. D., a married man, æt. about 25 years, who had been a sufferer from the same disease for six years past, came to my office on the 26th August, in the midst of a violent paroxysm of dyspnoea and coughing. He complained of a sensation of weight over the region of the bifurcation of the trachea, and a smarting sensation there when he coughed. Having the first solution on the table, I directed him how to use it. The relief was the same as in the first case. Ordered him to continue the use of the spray. Saw him about the 12th of September. He had discontinued the inhalation, having been entirely free from any symptoms of the disease after the first week he had used my treatment.

Two other cases which came under my care were treated in the same way and with the same success.

ART. XII.—*Hydrate of Chloral in the Treatment of Pertussis.*

By JAMES BORDLEY, M.D., of Centreville, Maryland.

HAVING employed hydrate of chloral with such uniform success in almost the whole train of nervous disorders, I was led some years ago to try its efficacy in whooping-cough (as a palliative), hoping to gain thereby partial control of the neurotic element of the disease; feeling assured from the generally received opinion of its pathology, that the remedy would prove at least a good substitute for many, if not all, of the ordinary and usual antispasmodics so freely exhibited in this affection; and, from the peculiar spasmodic and nervous character of the disease, I was struck with the marked indications for its use. I therefore began its employment at once, and so fully did it perform what was anticipated from it, and such satisfactory results did it yield, that I have since used it in every case under my care.

But not until I read the report of cases by P. Brynberg Porter, in the *New York Medical Journal* for August, 1873, did I appreciate the full value of the drug. Before, I had not anticipated from its use other

than palliative effects, and, fearful of pushing it too far, had only derived results proportional to the doses used, which were comparatively small. I had from the first noticed the control that the treatment had over the frequency of the paroxysms, and the lessened severity of the spasmodic action, and the general alleviation of most of the symptoms in this troublesome affection. The nature of the cases so treated not being of an aggravated type, I was thereby partially misled, and did not assign to the medicine its full value, for I attributed the mildness and short duration of the attacks partly to the type of the then prevailing disease, so that I really ascribed to the remedy but half its claim to the favorable result of my cases.

But, as before stated, after carefully reading and comparing Dr. Porter's report of cases, I was satisfied of the curative powers of the drug, and saw at once why my treatment had failed to yield me the complete results claimed by him.

Emboldened by his success, I was induced to augment the dose, and push the medicine to its full effects, and so well was I gratified with the result, that I hesitate not in asserting my conviction based thereupon, viz., that Dr. Porter's experience with hydrate of chloral was not accidental, or the result of coincidence, nor attributable to the mild nature of the epidemic, but due to the immediate influence of the medicine. And although I do not claim for it the title of a specific in whooping-cough, I do place it among the directly curative remedies, all of which have failed, and will fail, in some cases, however employed, which failures, however, do not in the least invalidate the claim to the position these drugs occupy in therapeutics.

The number of cases treated by me as advised by Dr. P. has been limited, but enough I think to establish—with other reported cases—the opinion I have advanced respecting the value of the medicine.

As is generally the experience of the physician, I have seen no cases in their initial state; so am unprepared to testify from personal knowledge upon its merits as an abortive agent, yet, judging from its marked influence over well-developed cases, I fully anticipate from its earlier employment even happier results, especially if employed before that part of the nervous system which operates in the production of this disorder receives a more intense poisoning, developing the full train of symptoms. I would state to those who may have tried this treatment unsuccessfully, that, to procure the best results from its administration, it must be exhibited in full doses; and my experience has demonstrated to my entire satisfaction the wonderful tolerance of the drug, in all pertussis cases, even in the very young.

The dose of course must be regulated by the age of the patient and the severity of the attack, and care always taken to observe the peculiar susceptibility in each individual case, as some children are much more

susceptible to its action than others, as much so as is the case with opium and its preparations.

The course followed to my own satisfaction is to commence with a half grain for a child a year old, and increase a half grain for each additional year, and repeat every three or four hours. After noting the effect of that dose, to increase it from a half to one grain each day, according to the severity of the attack, and the peculiar tolerance of the medicine. Yet in some cases this plan may be deviated from with benefit, and the increase may be much greater and more rapid, but in the majority of cases I have found the above plan satisfactory. Of course it is necessary to watch the effect of the article (as it always is in the use of potent drugs), and, when decided symptoms of hypnosis are manifested, to suspend its use until the subsidence of such symptoms, then to begin it again in diminished quantity, to be increased as before.

I have found the "campeach syrup of sarsaparilla" a good vehicle for its administration, as it masks the taste and destroys the pungency of the elixir more effectually than anything else I have tried. Some of the stimulant expectorants will prove valuable adjuncts.

I hope other practitioners who have not given this treatment a trial will do so, and all who may or have done so will report the result, that we may have more data upon the question.

ART. XIII.—*Remarks on the Climate of Florida.* By C. W. HORSEY, M.D., of Fernandina, Florida.

THE climate of Florida has attracted much attention for many years, on account of its known adaptability as a place of winter residence for those suffering with pulmonary disease. Particularly has such been the case for the few years immediately past, each succeeding season bringing a continually increasing number of those afflicted to be benefited by its genial influence.

Having resided in Florida, and conducted an active practice for several years, I have been necessarily brought in contact with many cases of lung disease, and a fact more constant and invariable than any noted is a want of knowledge exhibited by the majority of patients as to the true character of the climate, and of that portion of the State best suited to their special condition. This consideration prompts me to give the result of my personal experience and observation, and to offer for the information of the profession, and under whose advice so many come to Florida, a few general remarks on the climate and its variation in different parts of the State. I am not prepared at this time to give accurate statistical tables in support