

pushed up to six grains three times a day, and at the end of seven weeks all his symptoms had disappeared.

Case 10 had been taking medicine off and on for two years, but his symptoms never disappeared entirely. After being two weeks on mercuriol (two grains three times a day) with the addition of potassium iodide, all symptoms had disappeared.

I use the drug in my private practice to the exclusion of all others, and my experience is that I get better results in the treatment of my private patients than I do in that of the patients who come to the dispensary. This may be due to the fact that the patients are better nourished and that their stomachs have not been subjected to such severe treatment by the use of alcohol. Possibly, also, it is in some measure due to the fact that they take their medicine more regularly, besides being more careful to follow out the general regimen. I have now under treatment 42 private patients, and a noteworthy circumstance is that in only one of the number has it been necessary to add potassium iodide to control the symptoms. One of these patients had been treated at Hot Springs in 1898. For six months thereafter he saw no signs of the disease; but then, having indulged in a protracted spree, the eruption showed up again, and for the last two years he had been taking all sorts of medicines in the vain effort to get rid of the disease. When he came to me I put him on mercuriol, the maximum dose being three grains three times a day, and at the same time gave him 15 grains of sodium iodide, under which treatment the disease was absolutely controlled in six weeks. Another when he came to me had an immense chancre of the chin, syphilitic angina, macular eruption on the body, and mucous patches on the lip and scrotum. He had been taking hydrargyrum protoiodide for four weeks but was steadily getting worse. I found that the highest dose of mercuriol he could stand was two grains three times a day and that this was not strong enough to control the disease. I therefore changed the treatment to inunction of mercury. Five days later he came back with double iritis and he was given a hypodermic injection of bichloride of mercury. I have not seen him since. As a rule, I find in private practice, as in dispensary practice, that a dose of two or three grains three times a day is the most that patients can stand or require.

In conclusion, I may remark that the treatment of syphilis may or may not be revolutionised by the discovery about which we are now hearing so much, of the coccus which causes the disease; but it appears to me that the probabilities are that, for a considerable time to come at all events, mercury will continue to maintain the position it has held for 400 years as practically the specific for syphilis. Under these circumstances it is of the highest possible consequence that we should ascertain the best method of administering the medicine, and I have found no form so far in which it can be given with such good results as mercuriol.

New York.

Clinical Notes:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL, AND THERAPEUTICAL.

SEQUELA TO A CASE OF RADICAL CURE OF HERNIA.

BY WILLIAM DICK, M.B., F.R.C.S. EDIN.,

MAJOR R.A.M.C., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SURGERY, ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL, NETLEY.

THE following case, I think, is interesting.

A private was operated on at Pretoria on Jan. 28th, 1901, for left inguinal hernia. About ten days afterwards a swelling began to appear in the left side of his abdomen, primary union having taken place in the operation wound; this gradually got larger and he was invalided home, arriving at Netley on May 18th. On examination after arrival there was seen the incision of the operation perfectly healed, and there was to be felt and seen a tumour of about the size of two closed fists, filling the whole of the left side of the abdomen, very hard and with no sense of fluctuation. The man's general condition was good; there was no cachexia or rise of temperature. The diagnosis was that of some deep-seated

inflammatory condition, but still it was thought that it might possibly be a sarcoma. On May 31st an incision was made over the tumour and the muscular wall of the abdomen was cut through; no peritoneum could be recognised. An aspirating needle was then put into the tumour and pushed deeply, when a little pus was withdrawn. The tumour was then cut into; it was very hard, and the relations of abdominal contents were not made out; when the incision had gone to the depth of about three inches a small cavity was found with a little fluid in it. This being explored by the finger a foreign body was felt which was readily extracted by forceps. On examination this was seen to be eight silk ligatures interlocked, such as might be used for ligaturing off the omentum in sections, which no doubt was the case; they were covered with a caseating, crumbling material. A drainage-tube was put in and was retained for 48 hours and then withdrawn. The wound healed slowly with very little discharge. The mass of thickening gradually disappeared, there never being a rise of temperature during the healing process. The man went out perfectly fit, exactly three months after the operation, no trace of the tumour being left.

Netley.

A CASE OF TETANUS; USE OF ANTI-TETANIC SERUM; DEATH.

BY T. GRAHAM SCOTT, M.R.C.S. ENG., L.R.C.P. LOND.

A WOMAN, aged 21 years, was first seen by me on Sept. 25th, 1901. Six days previously, on Sept. 19th, a nail had penetrated the right foot just below the ball of the little toe, passing through the sole of the boot and the stocking. After the nail was withdrawn the wound closed and gave her very little trouble for the next three days. On the fourth day it was painful enough for her to keep her foot raised, and in the course of the two days following a small red swelling appeared on the dorsum of the foot above the metatarso-phalangeal joint. On the fifth day after the accident she had aching pains in her back and a stiff neck, and when seen on the sixth day she had well-marked trismus, tonic spasms of the muscles of the neck and back, and occasional slight clonic spasms. The temperature was normal and she took liquid food without much difficulty. Later in the day, at about 6.30 P.M., 10 cubic centimetres of antitoxin from the Institut Pasteur de Paris were injected into the skin of the abdomen, the clonic spasms having by this time become much more severe. At 9 P.M. chloroform was administered and a large area of skin and subcutaneous tissue was removed to a depth slightly greater than that of the original puncture of the nail, both the nail wound and the swelling on the dorsum being taken away. She rallied well from the operation, but as the effect of the chloroform passed off the spasms, both clonic and tonic, returned with much severity. Another 10 cubic centimetres of antitoxin had been injected during the anaesthesia and half a grain of morphia was now given in addition. During the night it was necessary to keep up the administration of chloroform at short intervals (a Junker's inhaler being employed), and towards morning 10 cubic centimetres of antitoxin were again injected, as well as half a grain of morphia. At about 9 A.M. there was considerably less spasm in the muscles of the lower jaw, but elsewhere the spasm had increased, the temperature had risen to 104° F., and the patient already showed considerable signs of exhaustion which increased as the day went on and she died at about 3 P.M. She became much cyanosed towards the end, when brandy was injected and inhalation of oxygen used, but without success.

I must gratefully acknowledge the invaluable help I received from Dr. W. G. Stone and Dr. W. Thornely during the case.

Denmark Hill, S.E.

DEVON AND CORNWALL EAR AND THROAT HOSPITAL, PLYMOUTH.—The fourteenth annual meeting of the supporters of this institution was held on Oct. 4th. The medical report showed that 904 cases had been treated, against 922 in the preceding year. 150 operations had been performed. The financial statement showed a favourable balance of £20. The old hospital in Princess-square was vacated in October, 1900, when the new building in North-street was opened. The committee state that this change has been most beneficial, the old hospital being too small.