

moted the developement of a dropsical affection, by diminishing the urinary secretion. This remedy never seemed to act as a palliative, much less as a radical means of cure, in the treatment of phthisis, for of twelve patients submitted to its use some died within the space of three weeks, and the rest immediately after its suspension. In one patient, affected with a complication of universal syphilis and laryngeal phthisis, the former complaint was much aggravated during the treatment. The same unfavourable results were obtained by the experiments made with the creosote lotion in cases of carcinoma uteri. The disease continued to march without any modification, while no change took place in the discharge, the pains were remarkably increased, and the hæmorrhage continued without any abatement. It was also employed as a lotion, (one drachm to ten ounces of water,) in cases of chronic exanthema, and gave rise to acute burning sensation and injection of the integuments, until the skin became, as it were, accustomed to its use. One case of *impetigo sparsa* of the lower extremities, which had existed for several years, was cured within eight weeks; but it produced no effect in a case of *impetigo scabida* of the face and arms. In several cases the creosote cured scabies within eight days. It acted in the most remarkable manner on the pain arising from carious teeth; the application of a small quantity with a bit of wool to the carious cavity invariably produced cessation of the pain within a few minutes.—*Lancet and Rust's Magazine*, Bd. 46.

11. *Chlorate of Potass in Phthisis*.—This substance, Dr. Köhler states to have been also employed, in the Berlin hospital, in 25 cases of tubercular phthisis, in the following form:—*R Kali chlorinici*, 5j. Dissolve in *distilled water*, four ounces, and add of the syrup of *marsh-mallows*, one ounce. *M. D. S.* A table-spoonful to be taken four times a day.

Whenever the medicine was well supported by the stomach, it was carried to one and a half or two drachms. Four of the patients submitted to this remedy were of the climacteric age; the rest, though younger, had all passed the period of puberty. All the patients had arrived at the second stage of the complaint; in only one case the disease was at its commencement, and at another it had reached the colligative stage. The effects were very similar to those of creosote. It increased the pulse and cough, and produced pain in the chest and bloody sputa, without improving the expectoration. In addition to this it acted in an unfavourable manner on the digestion, diminishing the appetite, producing pain in the abdomen, and watery diarrhœa, and, in many cases, it became necessary at once to lay the remedy aside. The secretion of urine was rather increased than diminished. It was, however, much better supported when united with some digitalis, or cherry-laurel water, or, in case of purging and colic being produced, with *laudanum*. The duration of the treatment varied from eight days to eight weeks, and more. Of the 25 patients 19 died, and four were left unrelieved; of the two remaining, a woman, whose disease seemed rather to be ulcerated phthisis, (*phyc. ulcerata*), and a man, above 30 years of age, the hectic fever and expectoration gradually diminished, and thence disappeared; the appetite became improved, and with it the patient's strength, and at length the cure seemed perfect. The man's case was entirely lost sight of; however, the woman was seen by Dr. Köhler a long time afterwards in the best health. Although the general result of the experiments made with this latter remedy was unfavourable, yet the author thinks it should be admitted amongst the number of medicines useful in pulmonary phthisis, though its stimulating action on the circulating and pulmonary systems cannot be denied. Its use is contra-indicated in cases where the fever runs high, where there is any sign of inflammation of the lungs, or any tendency to hæmoptysis.—*Ibid.*

12. *Nitrate of Strychnine in Paralysis*.—Dr. Köhler states that this article has been employed in the Berlin Hospital, in several cases of paralysis, arising either from cerebral hæmorrhage, poisoning with lead, rheumatism, or tabes. The eighth of a grain was mixed with ten grains of sugar, and one powder given daily, at the commencement. After a lapse of eight or ten days, or when the remedy seemed to produce little or no effect, the same quantity was administered twice a day. The highest dose taken was half a grain morning and evening; but this quantity soon brought on violent convulsions. Neither the small nor the

more considerable doses produced any remarkable influence on the ganglionic nervous system. It was almost always well supported by the stomach, and, in a very few cases only, gave rise to vomiting. In a short time after its administration, the pulse became more frequent and full, the temperature of the skin more elevated, the cheeks slightly red, and the increased warmth was followed by a gentle and universal perspiration, which produced a sensation of relief to the patient. The remedy did not seem to increase any other secretion than that of perspiration. In cases where small doses only were administered, the patients experienced slight pains, and a sensation of stiffness and weakness in the affected part, which rendered them unwilling and incapable of making any efforts with their limbs (where the latter were only partially paralyzed); however, after the lapse of a few hours, the same parts recovered their former power of motion, with a feeling of increased activity and strength. Higher doses of the strychnine produced flashings of the eyes, convulsions of the limbs, and in some cases, especially in females, violent and general convulsions, accompanied with quick respiration, and a complete periodic suspension of the breath. When the intellectual faculties became affected, the effect manifested itself in prostration, depression of the spirits, and a strong tendency to cry. Other patients were affected in an opposite manner, and laughed excessively, even on the slightest occasion. In some individuals of nervous temperament, the sensibility towards external impressions was so great, that they broke out into an uncontrollable fit of violent laughter as soon as they were touched with the finger. In a few cases it was impossible to continue the medicine in any dose; in others, where a large quantity was given, it produced severe symptoms of congestion towards the head and breast, with pain in the chest, and headache, hæmoptysis, symptoms of cerebral apoplexy, and general fever. Hence its use is contraindicated in individuals of a plethoric temperament, where the pulmonary system is easily excited, or where there is any marked tendency towards congestion of the chest or head.

Strychnine seems to produce an excitation of the whole nervous system, and particularly of the vertebral nerves, together with a secondary action on the vascular system and organs of secretion; but it does not communicate any durable increase of force or power. Hence it seems much better adapted for cases where the excitability has been simply exhausted by frequent action of some powerful or specific stimulus, where the power of the nervous system seems to slumber, and to require nothing but a proper excitant to bring it into action. In cases of general feebleness, or true exhaustion of the vital force, it generally produces more injury than benefit. Hence we should always begin with small doses, given at considerable intervals, and increase the quantity very gradually, in order to keep pace with the increased action of the nervous system, and avoid producing the exhaustion which accompanies this artificial excitement. As to the effects of the remedy in cases of paralysis, there were some fortunate,—sometimes no result occurred,—the latter was much more frequent than the former. In a very few instances only was the cure complete, that is to say, the members which were partially or completely paralyzed recovered complete power of motion, and this state continued during the eight or twelve weeks' employment of the remedy. It generally produced, for the first few days of its employment, a manifest amelioration; but in most cases it was impossible to obtain any further relief, even by considerable increase of the dose. On the contrary, where the dose was elevated, in the hope of keeping up the improvement manifested in the early stage, the strychnine produced more evil than good, by bringing on convulsions, followed by an increase of the paralysis. The patients often supported well one-eighth of a grain once or twice a day, and then improved a good deal; but when the dose was increased to two-eighths once or twice daily, it very often occasioned some of the accidents above mentioned, and it became necessary to suspend the remedy altogether. In cases of this kind, it was generally necessary to abandon this mode of treatment without reserve, as the patients could never again bear even the smallest dose. Authors recommend the external use of strychnine in cases of a desperate nature, where stimulants of every kind have already been employed in vain, and say that from one-eighth to two-eighths of a grain, mixed with from one to two grains of sugar, is well supported, and sometimes produces beneficial effects. When this remedy was tried externally at the Berlin Hospital, it very soon produced pains and stiffness in the paralyzed limbs,

which, however, diminished after the lapse of a few hours. The healthy members were much less affected. The most beneficial results were obtained in cases of palsy from lead, and after them in rheumatic affections. Its efficacy against palsy, resulting from cerebral hæmorrhage, was much more confined, and when given for *tubercles dorsalis*, instead of doing good, it accelerated the march of the disease.—*Ibid.*

13. *Venous injection of Tartar Emetic in Tetanus.* By Dr. KÜLLEN.—An ore-smelter, 47 years of age, while engaged in melting some metal, poured a quantity of the fluid into his right shoe. The sole of the foot was burned in a severe manner, and the whole of the tendons, nerves, and blood-vessels of this region were exposed, exactly as in an anatomical preparation. The patient was brought to the hospital of La Charité a few hours after the accident, with symptoms of severe general fever. Some alleviation was produced by blood-letting, with cold local applications, and an antiphlogistic regimen. After the lapse of a few days, the patient, who had been accustomed to the free use of spirituous liquors, was seized with *delirium tremens*, and the agitation of the injured limb, which he kept in constant motion, finally excited an attack of tetanus. This new accident was combated with the potash bath, frictions along the spine with the mercurial ointment with opium, leeches to the neck, and the internal use of opium and laurel-water. As these remedies produced no effect whatever, it was determined to throw a solution of tartar emetic into the veins. The operation was performed in the usual manner, and with the utmost caution. The median vein of the left arm being exposed, a small incision was made into the vein, and a quill introduced through the orifice. The quill was now fixed in the vein, with a ligature, and an ounce of distilled water, containing three grains of tartar emetic, gradually thrown in with a small syringe, whose nozzle exactly fitted the quill-tube. The action of the medicine was instantaneous. The pulse became small and frequent; the respiration accelerated; the pupils sometimes contracted, sometimes dilated; the patient began to cough, and in a very short time vomited once or twice; the body was now covered with a profuse general sweat. The remedy, however, seemed to exercise no influence on the disease. The tetanic symptoms continued unabated, opisthotonos set in, and the patient soon after died. On examining the body, the membranes of the brain and spinal marrow were found considerably congested. The substance of the spinal marrow seemed softer than natural, but otherwise normal. The vein into which the solution of tartar emetic had been thrown showed evident traces of inflammation, from the point of incision as far as the vena cava. The right cavities of the heart were filled with dark coagulated blood. The rest of the body presented nothing worthy of notice.—*Ibid.*

14. *On the Treatment of some of the diseases of the Brain.* by JAMES C. PRITCHARD, M. D., read to the British Association at the meeting at Bristol.—It has been said in former years that the art or practice of medicine has made much more rapid advance than the theory or science. It will hardly be disputed that the reverse of this observation holds good at the present time. For many years past, and especially since more precise investigation than was before pursued has been practised, by means of necroscopy, into the exact nature of organic changes, much accurate knowledge has been acquired, which is perhaps scarcely applicable to practicable purposes.

There is no class of morbid affections to which this remark is more truly applicable than it is to diseases of the brain and its investing membranes. Nobody is less disposed than myself to estimate at a low rate the value of information obtained through the medium of researches similar to those of Sir Charles Bell, Drs. Abercrombie, Bright, Hodgkin, Sims, and others in this country; and of MM. Rostan, Foville, and many others on the continent. Knowledge of the precise nature of morbid changes has its value even in a practical point of view, if not by directing us always to remedies, at least by making us aware what we are to expect in particular cases, as the final results of disease; and as pointing out the limits of what is possible, or what ought to be attempted with reference to cure. Still we ought not to lose sight of the fact, that the recovery of patients, and not merely actual pathology and diagnosis, is the ultimate object.