

has been discovered, described, cultivated, and photographed, I have not sought for its presence in any of my cases of DUPUYTREN'S CONTRACTION.

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ART. VII.—*The Nose, Cold Feet, "Tobacco" Heart, and Convallaria Majalis.* By H. S. PURDON, M.D.; Consulting Physician, Hospital for Skin Diseases, and to the Foster Green Consumption Hospital, Newtown-Breda, Belfast; Physician, Belfast Charitable Infirmary, &c.

THE injurious effects of the excessive use of tobacco—both smoking and "chewing"—on the general state of health is well known. There are, however, two symptoms connected with the weakened heart and "soft" pulse, viz.—a congested or dusky red colour of skin of nose, generally cold to the touch; and also, especially in winter, cold feet; in other words, a condition due to feeble circulation. I have not met with either of these in those engaged in out-of-door occupations, as in persons obliged to work like labourers, but observed such conditions in elderly or middle-aged men who lead a sedentary life, often troubled with constipation, and who use tobacco to excess, not only smoking but breathing the fumes for hours in the rooms they occupy, both sitting and bedroom. Tobacco smoking, when thus carried to excess, not only weakens and relaxes muscular tissue but may give rise to dyspepsia, especially in the young. It likewise causes palpitation, the paroxysms of which, as a general rule, occur in the evening, even when at rest, or during the early hours of the night, often associated with dreams and "night-mare." I would say that cigar smoking is a more exciting cause than the "pipe." An additional dose of the "weed" is sure to give rise to an attack. To the weak heart's action, I think, must be attributed the congested and reddened condition of the nose which is met with in some cases, as well as the coldness of the feet. Most medical practitioners know that the celebrated Sir B. Brodie found that "an infusion of tobacco thrown into the rectum paralysed the heart" (Pereira's "Materia Medica"). In fact, tobacco causes general relaxation both of the voluntary and involuntary muscles.

As regards treatment—Of course cutting off the quantity

of tobacco used and giving a cardiac tonic is desirable. I think I have derived much benefit from the use of the fluid extract of *convallaria majalis* or "Lily of the Valley," so well known and appreciated as a flower. It is said not to accumulate in the system like *digitalis*, and according to the late Professor Sée, quoted by Squire, may be used in all forms of heart failure, and does not exhaust the contractility of the heart or arteries. The Russian physicians prefer an extract made from the flowers only, but both root and flowers are used in these countries. Dr. Fernie, "Herbal Simples," holds that lily of the valley, the active principle of which is *convallarin*, quiets an irritable heart and also increases its power; moreover, the remedy is a safe one. The infusion taken "during an attack of palpitation and laboured breathing from a 'weak' heart, in tablespoonful doses, gives relief at once, whilst Dr. Potter, in his "Materia Medica," states that the mode of action of lily of the valley is "direct stimulation of the pneumogastric. The motor and sensory nerves retain their irritability and the muscles preserve their contractility, the cerebral functions and pupils unaffected, . . . the arterial tension is raised, and it is a valuable remedy in disordered rhythm, valvular affections accompanied by dropsy, and in a 'weak' heart."

Gerrard, the herbalist and surgeon, A.D. 1570, gives the following curious formula, and which, as well as the subsequent quotation, is interesting in a historical point of view—"The flower (lily of valley) being close stopped up in a glass, put into an ant-hill, and taken away again a month after, ye shall find a liquor in the glass which being continually applied helps the gout." Old Nicholas Culpeper, Surgeon Apothecary, writing in A.D. 1630, remarks in his "Complete Herbalist"—"The spirit of the flowers (of lily of the valley) distilled with wine, restores lost speech, helps the palsy, comforts the heart and vital spirits."

Calisthenic exercise with the arms, bending the body, and pressure with the hands "off and on," over epigastric region, I think, helps to restore "tone" to the heart, whilst for the cold feet and in all cases of any redness of the nose, especially in those of the female sex, no matter how caused, a mustard foot bath at night for ten or fifteen minutes,

followed by brisk friction, and in winter a "hot jar" in bed is most useful as well as comforting. For the local treatment of redness of nose a sulphur and calamine lotion rubbed into that organ stimulates the skin circulation and does good in restoring a natural appearance to that prominent and important organ.

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#### PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN.

H. E. KENDALL, M.D. (*Medical Record*), says peroxide of hydrogen injected under the epidermis produces immediate and complete anæsthesia of the whole skin. He has used it for over a year in opening abscesses, cutting off redundant tissue in in-growing toenails, opening the pleural cavity, and in one case the abdominal cavity. He does not think any absorption takes place, as the intercellular inflation from the gas generated seems to produce such pressure that the skin cuts like frozen tissue.

#### EXCESSIVE HÆMORRHAGE FOLLOWING THE REMOVAL OF A MYXO-FIBROMA FROM THE EAR.

C. R. DUFOUR (*Arch. of Otology*) has recently met with an experience of this kind, his patient being a woman aged fifty years. The tumour protruded in a polypoid form, and was surrounded with the wire snare, but the latter could not cut through, so the growth was removed by torsion. Severe arterial hæmorrhage followed, which hot water did not control, but which was entirely checked by compression of the carotid. Release of pressure was followed by immediate recurrence of the bleeding, so under anæsthesia the meatus was packed with gauze, which stopped all further trouble. The gauze was removed without incident in four days.

#### INFANTILE TYPHOID FEVER OF THE EXANTHEMATIC FORMS.

E. WEILL and CH. LESIEUR (*Gazette Hebdomadaire de Médecine et de Chirurgie*) report upon a remarkable frequency of typhoid in children presenting an abundance of rosy spots. They find that classic cases with few spots have marked or intense intestinal symptoms, and that the prognosis is often grave. Slight fever with few spots and intestinal symptoms slightly marked has a good prognosis. Intense fever with abundant spots and marked intestinal symptoms has a very grave prognosis. Purely exanthematic typhoid, such as exemplified in the cases now studied, with very abundant rosy spots, intestinal symptoms slight or almost nil, has an extremely benign prognosis.