

16. *Treatment of Chronic Alcoholic Intoxication.*—Dr. MARCET read a paper on this subject before the Western Medical and Surgical Society (Jan. 21, 1859). The author began by stating that nervous symptoms resulted from the long-continued use of alcoholic beverages, and that oxide of zinc was a remedy for such symptoms. The physiological and therapeutical properties of this drug were then passed in review, the author stating that he had himself observed the oxide to induce drowsiness, and even sleep, which might explain its sedative and anti-spasmodic properties. In cases of chorea, mild hysteria, paralysis, and lead palsy, its use gave but unsatisfactory results; and in the majority of cases of epilepsy it cannot be considered an effectual remedy. The author then analyzed twenty-seven cases of such a chronic state of intoxication, giving a synoptic table, on which were noticed the following points: 1. Name, etc. 2. Quality and quantity of drink taken. 3. Period of existence of intemperance. 4. Sleep. 5. Hallucinations. 6. Trembling. 7. Other nervous symptoms. 8. Pre-existing disease. 9. Result of the treatment. Ten of the above cases were taken in detail, the results showing the efficacy of the oxide of zinc as a remedial agent. With respect to the treatment, it was not merely necessary for the patient to cease drinking, as the symptoms referable to the nervous system often occurred long after the habits of intemperance had been abandoned, but that an active treatment was also absolutely necessary. The oxide of zinc was given in doses of two grains, twice a day, in the form of powders, an hour after each corresponding meal. The dose was generally increased in the ratio of two grains every three days, until the patient took six or eight grains twice a day. Thus sleep was soon induced, the trembling of the body and limbs rapidly disappeared, and the patient no longer suffered from headache or giddiness, the hallucinations vanished, and in the course of from three to six weeks the patient had recovered from a long and severe illness. The weakness, the common symptom accompanying the disease, was very difficult to overcome, and he states that it often persisted a long while after the individual was quite well in every other respect. Another fact noticed was the complication of chronic alcoholic poisoning with bronchitis and rheumatism, in which cases the effects of the oxide were less marked. In these instances the functional disturbance of the nervous system often gave way without any improvement in the co-existing disease. Accordingly, in these cases, the author added to the treatment as soon as the effects of the oxide were exhausted. The result of the twenty-seven cases were as follows: 6 continued attending; 11 had been discharged, cured; 4 left the hospital (Westminster), quite recovered; 4 much improved; and 2 ceased attending on the 1st and 2d inst.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Feb. 12, 1859.

17. *Great Pigment Deposit in the Skin without Disease of the Supra-renal Capsules.*—In our previous No., p. 251, we gave a brief notice of this case, but as it is one of much interest we shall now give further particulars in regard to it, from an account recently published by Dr. E. A. PARKES. (*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Dec. 11, 1858.)

William Barker, aged 66, a cabman, of extremely intemperate habits, was admitted into University College Hospital on October 7, 1858, with ascites, dependent on contracted liver. He was a fine strong-built man, and in spite of exposure to weather and of his habits, had had remarkably good health. The only illness he could recall to mind was an attack of jaundice seven years before, for which he was treated in University College Hospital for five weeks. He left the hospital apparently well. Some time afterwards (four or five months) he noticed that some parts of his skin (which before had been of healthy colour) were gradually becoming darker, especially the skin of the face and neck; he then noticed dark patches on the body, and on the arms and thighs, and these increased until a very considerable part of the whole body had assumed a very dark hue. Those portions of the skin which did not become dark became, he thought, even whiter than before. This discoloration advanced very gradually and continually for several months; he was not quite clear how long; sometimes saying that it was about six months, and at other times that it was a year or even eighteen months. But it seems clear that after a certain time the darkening process stopped, and since that time, now certainly five years, if not more,