The Use of Cocaine in Whooping Cough.

Dr. L. Barbilion, starting with the idea that the paroxysms of whooping cough are produced by irritation of the throat, and knowing, as we do, that cocaine is a very powerful anaesthetic for mucous membranes, has used the drug, with the following results: (1) A lessening of the number of attacks of coughing per day. (2) Prevention of vomiting during the paroxysm, and of the delirium produced thereby. (3) A greater power of resistance against the evil effects of a long and debilitating illness. No ill effects have been noted.

Seven cases are published in extenso, of which there were five cases; two cases were fatal, from broncho-pneumonia complicating the pertussis; one of these had measles also.

The drug was used in the form of a 4 per cent. solution in water, and the posterior pharyngeal wall was painted two to four times daily. (The cost of cocaine bring now only about 4/6 a gramme, the treatment has no disadvantage in point of costliness, and is certainly logical, and worthy of a trial.—Trans.)

Contribution to the Question of a Mechanical Treatment of Whooping Cough.

Dr. Goldschmidt puts forth the hypothesis that in pertussis we have to do with an affection of the nose and the posterior nasopharyngeal cavity, and that the paroxysms of coughing are due to mucus entering the larynx, as the result of aspiration, or simply of gravity. The treatment to be adopted is to use an antiseptic nasal wash every two hours; and the author says that he has had good results.—Rev. Maternelle Laryngologie, &c., October, 1885.

On the Treatment of Catarphal Phthisias, of Haemoptysis, and of Chronic Bronchitis, by Terpine.

German Seé gives the following résumé of his paper on the “Treatment of Cattatarhal Phthisias, of Haemoptysis, and of Chronic Bronchitis, by Terpine:”

1. It diminishes and quickly arrests the purulent expectation in catarphal forms of phthisis. Whether the mucus-purulent secretions proceed from the bronchi, irritated by tubercles, or from the walls of pulmonary cavities; whether the malady is at an early stage, or at a phase of prevalent breaking down, or even of cavities already formed; terpine should be used whenever the formation of pus is sufficiently abundant to tire the patient, to exhaust the strength, or to cause him to waste away.

2. It should be used with success in the haemoptysis of the early stages of tuberculosi; that is to say, when the disease has not yet developed large cavities, with aneurisms of the pulmonary arteries.

3. In the treatment of pulmonary catarphas; of chronic bronchitis not dependent on asthma, and only producing dyspnoea by choking the bronchi; terpine constitutes the best method of lessening bronchial hypersecretion.

4. The action is quick, sure, and free from physiological inconveniences, rendering it preferable to preparations of syrups of turpentine or tar, or of shoots of pine, which contain so little of it; and to essence of turpentine, which is not tolerated. It even offers advantages over creosote, on account of its perfect innocuity and easy digestion.

5. The best way of administering this medicine is either in the form of pills or tincture, and the best dose is one gramme.

6. In catarrhal, or emphysematous, or nervous asthma, which is to be distinguished from primary catarph, iodine and pyridine have an incontestable superiority.—Bulletin de l’Académie de Médecine, No. 30, 1885.

On the Treatment of Obesity.

German Sée, on “The Treatment of Obesity:”

1. A physiological regimen contains from 120 to 130 grammes of nitrogenous matter, obtained from 230 to 300 grammes of muscular flesh, or albuminates; of 100 to 120 gr. of neutral fats, plus 250 gr. of carbo-hydrates, supplied by 300 to 400 grammes of starch or sugar. These proportions should be modified so that the mucin-albuminum substances do not materially surpass the normal quantity; for, most taken in excess would of itself make fat. Fatty matters, easy of digestion, could, without inconvenience, be given in quantity amounting to from 60 to 90 gr.; the carbo-hydrates should be reduced to a minimum; as to vegetable food, it contains nothing nutritious.

2. Fluids, far from being suppressed, should be increased, to facilitate stomach digestion, and encourage general nutrition; but alcoholic drinks should be suppressed, especially ale; also mineral waters, as a rule; these should all be replaced by coffee and infusion of tea (as warm as possible).

3. Muscular exercises of all kinds are necessary to the obese; riding, which is a passive exercise, being excepted.

4. Vapour baths, warm baths, and, above all, hydropathy, offer some advantages.

5. Amongst medicines, the most useful are very small doses of iodides; chloride of sodium waters act only temporarily. Alkaline preparations and waters, especially good for
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fat diabetics, have no precise action on common obesity. All other medication is, to say the least, useless. — Bulletin de l’Academie de Medicine, No. 30, 1885.

Cholera.

The following are the conclusions on “Cholera,” presented to the French Academy of Medicine by its Commission:

1. In the regions of France from which we have received answers from medical men, the cholera, as a rule, has only appeared as coming from a country already contaminated. For, in three-quarters of cases, this importation has been recognized as such; and for the other quarter, the importation is more than probable, for reasons set forth in the report.

2. If we trust entirely to observations contained in these reports, we see that cholera develops with less intensity in populous centres than in small localities. It is, therefore, a grievous error that the inhabitants of towns should, in time of epidemics, fly to the country.

3. A general want of cleanliness, and, above all, the bad habit of throwing human excreta anywhere, is the principal cause of the propagation of the disease. For, in time of cholera, the dejections of a patient presenting only slight diarrhea may contain cholera germs of a serious nature.

4. The germs of cholera are often spread by water contaminated by dejections of a patient, and it is generally in drinking this water that the disease is contracted.

5. The storms, that so often precede or aggravate cholera epidemics, act in contaminating the water by disseminating into them any impurities that may be lying about the soil.

6. It is because drinking waters are ordinarily well trapped and preserved from contaminating matter, that towns give more resistance to the spread of cholera. Nevertheless, a few towns supplied by river water lose this privilege.

7. In all cholera-infected localities, however, low-lying districts situated near rivers, and places where the purity of the water is doubtful, are the most dangerous to inhabit.

8. Houses inhabited by cholera patients, as well as all dejectsions, clothes, or any other objects, should be thoroughly disinfected, according to the method prescribed by the Consulting Committee of Hygiene. Such precautions seem to have often arrested the spread of cholera at its beginning.

But, to be entirely efficacious, medical men should exert great vigilance in prescribing disinfection; for the ignoring of early cases of cholera, or even of slight choleraic affections, may give rise to contamination of water, and propagation of the disease.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM MICHELL CLARKE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,
Consulting Surgeon to the Bristol Union Hospital.

We have to record with much regret the sudden and unexpected death of William Michell Clarke. The deceased gentleman died at his residence, 2 York Buildings, Clifton, on October 2d. He had been somewhat indisposed for a few days, but his friends noticed nothing in his condition to excite alarm; indeed, he continued his professional work to the very last, and saw patients on the day preceding his death. Never of very robust strength, he was able by careful management to carry on one of the largest practices in Clifton and its neighbourhood, and his loss will be greatly felt by numerous patients and friends. He leaves a void in professional circles that will not be easily filled, and by none will his loss be more felt than by the members of the Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Society. Mr. Clarke was, in 1877, President of this Society, and read a most interesting address on “The Natural History of Disease.” He was also a frequent contributor to the ordinary meetings, besides taking a deep interest in the general well-being of the Society.

Mr. Clarke may be looked upon as one of our most successful practitioners, and he owed his success entirely to his own individual efforts, and to thorough and conscientious work. His example may be taken as showing what may be accomplished in our profession without extraneous aid by a man who is thoroughly in earnest.

Mr. Clarke began his professional career by being apprenticed to a country Surgeon at Bodmin, his native town. He afterwards entered St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, where he was known as a most industrious and painstaking student. After leaving St. Bartholomew’s, he was appointed House Surgeon to the Bristol General Hospital, which at that time