

the resources of his profession will enable him to do in such cases. Were this uniformly the case, we should not be pained as we now are by the deformity which we are daily compelled to witness, with the consciousness that it is entirely the result of ignorance that there was any preventive, or of culpable indifference on the part of parents; for there is scarcely any supposable case in which the most irregular set of teeth, by constant care from the commencement of the second dentition, may not be made regular and beautiful.

In this brief sketch we have been able to do but little more than make general statements; but had we space to go more into detail, we might mention facts which would astonish those who are not personally acquainted with the state of the profession. We are aware, however, that general as have been our remarks, they may be thought by some to be severe and uncharitable. It has certainly not been our intention to censure unjustly; and those whose daily practice brings them into contact with the malpractice which we have spoken of as so abundant in the profession, will bear testimony that the half has not been told.

We augur favorably for the future advancement of the science, from the results of the efforts of the few last years. The public are asking for and receiving information upon this subject—and in the precise ratio of its diffusion, will be the confidence of the community in the powers of the science to accomplish what it proposes.

August, 1834.

IODINE IN SCARLATINA.

BY J. W. FORD, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

IN the autumn and winter of 1832-3, the second species of this complaint (scarlatina anginosa) prevailed in this vicinity, to some considerable extent. Among the unfortunate subjects of it, was W. G. jr., merchant, aged 25, who submitted himself to the care of one of those dangerous innovators, properly called *quacks*, who knew as little about the nature of the disease as of the appropriate remedies, and who uniformly made use of emollient poultices, to the exclusion of every other remedy in the complaint, and as uniformly produced the disagreeable, though natural result of such practice, viz. abscesses of the throat. On the seventh day of the complaint, I was called to take the charge of this case. I found the patient laboring under great difficulty of breathing—deglutition and articulation wholly suspended—the parotid and sub-maxillary glands swelled to an alarming degree—the tongue occupying the roof of the mouth—fever considerable, though not violent. Patient has had no sleep for the last four days. I immediately adopted my usual practice in the complaint, which I believe is not new or singular with the profession, with the exception, perhaps, of the following first named gargle. Gave him mist. of spts. turp. and treacle, āā, simmered together; which soon produced a copious discharge of thick, ropy mucus, followed by dark patches of slough from the fauces. Continued this, alternated with the

pepper mist., as gargles, and ext. app. of hops and vinegar. Next day, found him much better; breathes apparently easy; can swallow liquids, though with difficulty. Continue the same remedies, together with sol. of borax, nitre and ipecac.

3d day.—Patient can articulate distinctly, and swallows apparently easy. Fever slight; swelling of the glands but little abated and very hard.

Viewing the existing inflammation as sub-acute, as is undoubtedly the case in this complaint, and knowing the virtues of iodine in glandular and other sub-acute inflammatory affections, accompanied with swelling, I ventured upon its use in this case, as there was no appearance of a purulent change in the structure of the glands. Apply tinct. of iodine ext. twice in 24 hours. Proportion—

Iodine, ʒj.
Alcohol, ʒj.

4th.—Glands reduced to nearly their natural size. Patient eats and sleeps well—walked out.

5th.—Discontinued remedies.

I have been thus careful to detail the particulars of this case, for various reasons. 1st, to show the efficacy of the remedies adopted by the writer in the treatment of this complaint. 2d, to introduce what I conceive to be a new remedy in the complaint, to the consideration of the readers of your useful Journal—inasmuch as there often follows a painful, protracted swelling of the parotid gland in this species of scarlatina, which I am confident may be effectually prevented by a timely use of this remedy. I have used it in cases similar to the one related, and in every instance with the like happy result.

Waterville, Me., Aug. 18th, 1834.

WATER FROM LEADEN PIPES DESTRUCTIVE TO LEECHES.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I am not aware that it is generally known, that water which has passed through leaden aqueducts is destructive to leeches. Complaints have frequently been made to me by my patients and others, that their leeches died after a few days, however frequently the water was changed in which they were kept—and in several instances, it was stated that their color became whitish or grey. On inquiry, it invariably appeared that water was used which had run through leaden conductors.

A few months since, I advised a person what might be expected, if such water was used in preserving her leeches. She replied, the water was perfectly pure and soft; but in a few days her leeches were all dead.

Perhaps some of the readers of your Journal may profit by the above hint, since the value of leeches is now so justly appreciated, and water, particularly in the country, is so frequently conducted to dwelling houses by leaden pipes.

Yours, truly,

L. Howe.

Jaffrey, N. H., Aug. 19, 1834.