

modified; but a single grain of blue pill, given thrice a day for a short period, and subsequently twice or even once daily, accomplishes the object often without producing soreness of the gums. Antimony proves a valuable auxiliary, and enables us to effect our purpose with a smaller quantity of mercury than would otherwise be requisite, and the addition of an anodyne is useful both in moderating the cough and making the stomach more tolerant of the treatment. The formula which Dr. Thompson is accustomed to employ consists of blue pill, half a scruple; antimonio-tartrate of potass, one grain; extract of conium, one scruple, divided into eight pills. The duration of treatment varies with the severity of the disease, and the susceptibility of the patient; but it is often sufficient to administer one pill thrice daily for four days, then twice daily for four days, and afterwards every night for a week. Under this treatment, the sonorous rhonchus usually disappears in a few days, or becomes audible only when the patient takes a deep inspiration, and the expectoration is rendered less tenacious and more opaque. When the breathing becomes comparatively easy, and the only rhonchus heard is the mucous, the mercurial pill may be given less frequently, and ipecacuanha, or, in debilitated subjects, compound squill pill, substituted for antimony. When all rhonchus has disappeared, some roughness of respiratory murmur is often observable, and till this is removed the mercury must not be suspended, or a relapse would be probable. An occasional purgative may be advantageously employed, and when the mercury is discontinued, iodide of potassium is often of value in establishing a healthy condition of the bronchial membrane. Dr. Thompson gave several instances of the successful employment of his plan of treatment. One, in a gentleman between seventy and eighty years of age, in whom the heart was involved, and dropsy threatened; another, in a young man, who, in consequence of chronic bronchitis, associated with peculiar nervous susceptibility, suffered from distressing paroxysms of asthma, night after night, an hour or two after retiring to rest. He did not attempt to specify all the variations of treatment which the modifications of individual cases might require, but urged that the principle of management was of wide application, aiming to substitute a curative for a palliative plan, and suggested that by changing the condition of the bronchial tubes, and rendering them tolerant even of our variable climate, it might save many individuals, now subject to bronchial attacks, every winter from the evil of annual expatriation.—*Lancet*, Jan. 16th, 1847.

20. *Microscopic Researches on the Absorption of Pus.*—DR. MÜHLBAUER has given the particulars of a case which are interesting in relation to the disputed question regarding the possibility of the reabsorption of pus into the blood-vessels. The fact that in cases where suppurating surfaces exist, deposits of purulent matter in the substance of organs, and the cavities of joints, without preceding inflammation of these parts, do frequently take place, is undoubted: and the inference that these deposits are effected through the agency of the blood-vessels conveying the elements of pus from parts where they have been formed, and discharging them in the distant places, seems quite natural, but is commonly opposed by the apparently insurmountable difficulty presented by the large size of the pus corpuscles, compared with the calibres of the minute capillary vessels into which they must pass if re-absorbed, and the non-existence of any demonstrable apertures in the walls of these vessels through which the corpuscles might be supposed to make their way. In Dr. Mühlbauer's case, a soldier who had several abscesses of the nature of carbuncle about his body, died, and when examined, there was found in the cavities of his heart a small quantity of thin fluid blood, having a dirty-brownish red colour, and causing a tingling sensation when rubbed between the fingers. Examined beneath the microscope, there was discovered, besides blood-corpuscles, a considerable quantity of large granulated corpuscles, presenting all the characters of ordinary pus-corpuscles, and like these being rendered transparent by treatment with acetic acid, whereupon a cup-shaped nucleus in each was brought into view. Compared with the quantity of blood-corpuscles they were in the proportion of about 1 to 8. The blood generally was decomposed (an effect which invariably attends the mixture of pus with blood out of the body). Several metastatic abscesses were found in the lungs; and the kidneys were degenerated

into a yellowish-red homogeneous mass.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, May, 1846, from *Schmidt's Jahrbücher*, Heft ii. 1845.

21. *Mercurial Ointment in Variola*.—M. BRIQUET says that it is impossible to estimate too highly the utility of the mask of mercurial ointment, rendered solid by means of starch powder, and applied once or twice a day. A thick layer of this preparation should be spread with the fingers on the forehead, cheeks, eyelids, ears, &c. Under this application the pustules in these parts abort; the eyes are preserved; the horrible swellings of the face, nose, and lips, so common in confluent small-pox, are prevented, and the patient is refreshed by each application of the ointment. It is truly a precious remedy, not only as a means of preventing cicatrices, but as a safeguard to the eyes, while it diminishes the sinaring pains so often experienced.—*Annales de Thérapeutique*.

22. *Rupture of Lateral Sinus of Dura Mater*.—Dr. CHARLES BELL exhibited to the Manchester Pathological Society a portion of dura mater, in which the right lateral sinus had burst, causing instantaneous death. The ruptured opening which formed an irregular slit in the sinus, in a slightly oblique direction from above downward and from within outward, was situated midway betwixt the torcular heerophili and the jugular fossa. About ten ounces of dark fluid venous blood had escaped into the arachnoid cavity; it was most abundant over the right hemisphere and at the base of the brain. The brain and its membranes, except the lacerated part, were most healthy, as also the arteries at its base. The heart with its valves was as sound as a child's; and every other organ presented the healthiest appearance.

Dr. B., after pointing out this as a very rare lesion, since in all his experience he had not seen a single instance of this kind before, directed attention to the suddenness of the death resulting from it. The man, Thomas Morrice, a stout, strong, and hale labourer, aged 62 years, who had never complained of any indisposition, after having eaten a hearty dinner, resumed his work as usual, and shortly afterwards, whilst wheeling a barrow, dropped down senseless, drew a deep breath, and instantaneously ceased to live. On careful examination of the lacerated part, the rupture appeared attributable to atrophy of the fibres of the dura mater where the laceration took place; whereby the parietes of the sinus were so much weakened, as to have been no longer able to resist the pressure of the blood in a moment of congestion.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, Jan. 1847.

23. *Tubercles in Bones*.—Dr. WATTS communicated to the Manchester Pathological Society a case of tubercle in the cancellated structure of the bones, which he illustrated by a series of drawings.

The patient, a pale-looking, badly grown, strumous boy, 16 years of age, who came under treatment for dropsy of the belly and anasarca, died gradually exhausted with hectic fever. He had no symptom which could have revealed the existence of the disease found on examination after death.

The cavities of the chest and belly contained much serous fluid. The peritoneum was everywhere thickened, lead-coloured, and studded over with tubercles. The glands of the mesentery were enlarged and tuberculous. There was an immense abscess, containing four pints of curdy pus, situated on each side and in front of the spine, which was here denuded of periosteum. The kidneys were enlarged and pale. The testes were small, and had not passed out of the abdomen. Very little tubercle obtained in the lungs, merely a few gray granulations. There was a cicatrix on the inner aspect of the left shoulder, where an abscess had opened two years previously, which, after discharging matter for some time, healed. The boy had not lately complained of pain in this part. On opening the joint, pus escaped; the articulating surface of the humerus was rough from being denuded of its usual smooth covering. The section exposed to view a most perfect specimen of yellow tubercles in the cancellated structure of the head and neck of the bone. The cancellated substance was deeply congested with blood, intensely red, and slightly, perhaps, softer than in its healthiest condition; in the midst of the red cancellæ were seen the straw-coloured tubercles, with irregular-