

otherwise incurable. I may venture the hint further, that in cases of this kind in which you cannot arrive at a positive diagnosis, it is a very justifiable practice to try the effects of an efficient course of iodide of potassium. It rarely does harm, and may chance to do much good. It is not by any means always that we can arrive at a satisfactory conclusion as to the cause of our patient's malady, whereas we must always try to do something for his benefit.

Symptoms of disease of the nervous system may be produced by syphilis in two different modes. Either syphilitic inflammation of the nerve-structure itself may occur; or the nerve may be involved secondarily by disease beginning in the periosteum or bone adjacent to it. In both of these, either a nervous centre or a nerve trunk may chance to be the part involved. Cases of syphilitic inflammation of nerve-structure itself are very much more rare than are those in which nerves are irritated or pressed upon by syphilitic effusions from adjacent structures. That they do sometimes happen, however, there is not the least doubt. Large masses of syphilitic induration have been found in the brain itself, and on the trunks of nerves swellings constituting syphilitic neuromata are occasionally seen. Let it be noted that these are amongst the latest of the tertiary symptoms of this disease. They hardly ever occur within the first two years of the disease, and more frequently after a much longer period. A similar remark applies to cases in which the nervous structures are injured by periostitis of adjacent bones. All the various forms of node are tertiary symptoms, and usually late in their occurrence.

Illustrations

OF

HOSPITAL PRACTICE:

METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL.

LIVERPOOL NORTHERN HOSPITAL.

CASES OF ACUTE DISEASE OF THE CHEST.

Under the care of A. T. H. WATERS, M.D.,
Physician to the Hospital.

[Continued from page 607 of vol. II, for 1862.]

CASE XXIII. *Pericarditis: Recovery.* Thomas D., a seaman, aged 37, was admitted into the hospital on December 1st, 1862. He was a stout muscular man. He said he had suffered from rheumatic fever twelve years before the date of his admission, but had had no subsequent illness. Six days before he was brought to the hospital, he was seized with a sharp pain in the epigastrium, with dyspnoea and a sensation of constriction across the chest.

When seen on December 2nd, he complained of pain, increased on pressure, in the epigastric region, of a jumping sensation about the heart, and of pain in the limbs. There was no tenderness over the heart, nor any increased dullness; the cardiac sounds were free from murmur, but faint. The pulse was 94, and regular; there was an anxious expression of countenance. He was ordered some Dover's powder at bed-time, an ether mixture to be taken during the day, and for food, beef-tea.

On December 3rd, the pulse was 88, and dicrotic in the right arm. The patient had been delirious

during the night, and the pain and anxious expression remained. Friction-sound was audible at the lower part of the right pleura in front. There was no friction-sound over the heart. He was ordered a grain of opium every six hours, and a linseed-meal poultice to the chest.

On December 4th, the pulse was 84. He had passed a better night, and had perspired a good deal. Friction-sound was audible in the right pleura and in the pericardium, both at the base and apex of the heart. He was ordered twenty grains of bicarbonate of potash every six hours, and to continue the opium.

On December 5th, the pulse was 112, feeble and very irregular. He had slept well during the night; but about 5 A.M. had had a severe attack of pain and dyspnoea. He was perspiring profusely. The right hand was swollen and painful. Friction-sound was audible all over the heart. He was ordered an ounce of port wine every four hours, and the following draught every three hours: Potassæ bicarbon. gr. xx; tincturæ opii ℥xv; spiritus ætheris sulph. comp. ℥xv; aquæ ʒj.

On December 6th, the pulse had fallen to 96, and was regular. He had slept well. There was less anxiety of countenance, and the appetite was better. Friction-sound was audible over the middle and base of the heart. There was no increased dullness.

On December 7th, the pulse was 80, and pain was complained of in all the joints. Friction-sound was still heard in the pericardium and right pleura. He was ordered to take the draught every four hours; and on the 8th, it was given every six hours. The wine was continued.

On December 9th, the friction-sound was less marked and more circumscribed. The urine was neutral; the pulse 80. He was ordered a roast slice.

On December 11th, the friction-sound could not be heard. He continued the potash and laudanum up to the 16th, when the latter was omitted. From this date, with the exception of a slight return of pain in the limbs, he progressed satisfactorily to recovery. The wine was stopped on the 22nd, and the potash on the 27th. He subsequently took quinine; and was discharged well on January 27th, 1863.

CASE XXIV. *Pericarditis, with Extensive Effusion: Recovery.* James W., a bar-tender, aged 23, was admitted into the hospital on February 24th, 1863. He had been ill for three weeks before admission, and had been confined to his bed for one week. His symptoms had been pain in the chest and dyspnoea. He had been attended by a surgeon, and was under the influence of mercury.

On admission, he complained of pain in the chest, hands, and feet. He said he had been much purged. The pulse was 120, very feeble, but regular; the skin was hot, and there was profuse perspiration; the tongue was dry, brown, and furred. There was an anxious expression of countenance, and pain on pressure over the heart. A loud friction-sound was extensively heard in the cardiac region. He was ordered six ounces of port wine, a linseed-meal poultice to the chest, and the following mixture.

℞ Potassæ bicarb. ʒij; potassæ acetatis ʒij; tincturæ opii, ℥xxx; aquæ ad ʒviij. One ounce to be taken every four hours.

On the 25th, he had not slept, and had been purged several times. The pulse was 124. He had had opium and brandy to check the diarrhoea. He was ordered to take ten minims of laudanum every hour; and to continue the alkaline mixture without the acetate of potash. He was purged six times during the afternoon; and in the evening, was very prostrate. He was ordered an ounce of brandy every three hours, in addition to the wine, beef-tea, etc. The alkaline

mixture was stopped, and an astringent one substituted.

On the 26th, the diarrhoea continued; the friction-sound over the heart was less extensive, but still well marked; the pulse had risen to 132. He was ordered half an ounce of brandy with arrowroot every hour. He took freely of nourishment. In the evening, he had had some sleep, and appeared somewhat better. A blister was applied over the heart.

On the 27th, the bowels had acted nine times; he had taken twenty minims of laudanum with chalk mixture after each motion; he had also had eight ounces of port wine, brandy and arrowroot every hour, and two pints of strong beef-tea. The pulse had fallen to 120. The blister had risen; and he said he felt easier about the chest. There was increased dulness in the cardiac region; but no friction-sound was audible. He was ordered a grain and a half of opium at bedtime, and to continue the astringent mixture with ten minims of laudanum only to each dose.

On the 28th, the pulse was 118; the bowels had acted five times. He had taken eight ounces of brandy and six of port wine in the twenty-four hours.

On March 1st, he had passed a good night. The heart was felt beating in the second left intercostal space; the cardiac dulness had increased. Friction-sound was heard on pressure, not otherwise. Another blister was ordered. During the night, he became somewhat delirious; and on the following day, the diarrhoea was increased. A grain of opium was ordered every six hours, and an opiate enema after each motion, instead of the astringent mixture.

On the 3rd, there had been some delirium during the night. The bowels were more quiet, and he appeared much better. The tongue was becoming moist; the skin was cooler; and the pulse had dropped to 102.

On the 4th, the pulse was 100.

On the 5th, it had fallen to 92. He had had only two motions. There was less dulness over the heart; and friction-sound was heard on pressure. He was taking two grains of opium at night, ten ounces of port wine and six of brandy daily, beef-tea, etc.

On the 7th, the bowels were quiet; the pulse was 80; and the tongue was cleaner. The heart-sounds were clear at the base. No friction-sound was audible.

On the 9th, he began to take quinine; and the stimulants were diminished to eight ounces of wine and three of brandy daily, with chop, etc.

He progressed rapidly from this date. On the 18th, the brandy was stopped, and the quinine increased in dose. On the 21st, there was no increased dulness over the heart. No friction-sound was audible. The heart's action, and the situation of its beat, were normal; and the sounds were free from murmur.

He was discharged well on the 24th.

REMARKS. The foregoing case presents some features of peculiar interest. The patient had been confined to his bed for a week before admission into the hospital; and we may assume, perhaps, that the pericardial inflammation had existed for that period. He had been put under the influence of mercury; but no beneficial effects had been produced on the disease. The remedy, instead of controlling the inflammation, had given rise to severe diarrhoea, which had produced a condition of extreme exhaustion; and, although opium was largely given after admission, it was several days before the action of the bowels was checked; during that time the patient's state was very critical.

The case serves to show the dangerous symptoms that may be produced by mercury, when its action on the bowels is not controlled, and the value of stimu-

lants in certain pathological conditions, although one of the most important organs of the body is the seat of extensive acute inflammation.

[To be continued.]

Original Communications.

ON SANTONINE :

WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO ITS USE IN THE ROUND AND, THREAD-WORM.

By WILLIAM ANDERSON, M.D., Resident Physician to the Birmingham General Hospital.

THE introduction of "santoninum" into the *British Pharmacopœia* was no more than was expected by those practitioners who have for several years been convinced of its efficiency, and especially of its superiority to all known anthelmintics in the treatment of the round worm.

Though known in America and upon the continent, it has been little used in this country, and is not mentioned in some of the more recent works upon the practice of physic. Dr. Fleming, of Queen's College, Birmingham, describes it to me, after an experience of more than five years, as the best of known remedies for the round worm and ascarides; and pronounces it, as the result of his observation, to be decidedly superior to spigelia, of which he has made many trials, and which has been so highly praised by our American brethren.

A correct knowledge of its action and mode of administration must be very important to those living and practising in districts where these worms abound and give rise, as they often do, to symptoms of the most formidable and alarming nature—epileptiform seizures, intense headache, hypochondriasis, and dyspepsia, in their most aggravated forms.

The question has been raised, whether or not the presence of these worms in the intestinal canal is injurious to the economy; but when I mention that last year a case of perforation of the intestine accompanied by fatal hæmorrhage occurred in this hospital, and that many of the cases here are attended with such symptoms as to make the patient's life miserable, and greatly to deteriorate the health, if not lay the seeds of incurable disease, I think that this position will be no longer tenable. Moreover, the remedy is so simple, and tasteless, if not pleasant, as prescribed, and productive of no disturbance whatever, that I am inclined to think that any one who had a well-founded suspicion that his patient was suffering from lumbrici, would be only too glad to avail himself of this easy method of curing what might at any time prove a fatal, and is at all times a loathsome, malady.

The lad mentioned above where perforation took place in the duodenum, had nine lumbrici in his intestines; and patients have presented themselves suffering from the symptoms of the disease, who have passed upwards of a dozen after a few doses of the remedy. One man, after taking five grains of santonine three times a day, passed three worms the morning after taking the medicine, two the same night, and one the morning following—six in all—and was very soon in perfect health, although before he was miserable from headache, sickness, and nervous debility. Many such cases could be quoted where immediate relief has been obtained and no disturbance caused, and it is only in cases where large doses have been used that the drug has caused vomiting, purging, or prostration; the tendency to purging