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THE
AMERICAN
MEDICAL DIGEST.

ISSUED IN MONTHLY PARTS.

A DIGEST OF CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE,
ABSTRACTS AND REVIEWS,—IN THREE PARTS:
MEDICINE, SURGERY, DISEASES OF
WOMEN AND CHILDREN,
AND OBSTETRICS.

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THE AMERICAN MEDICAL DIGEST.

PART II.

SURGERY.

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M E D I C I N E .

CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

Large Doses of Quinine in Typhoid Fever.

Dr. GEORGE S. HULL, of Chambersburg, Pa., publishes an article in the *Med. News*, November 15th, 1884, recommending the use of large doses of quinine in typhoid fever when the temperature gets very high. The mixture used the most frequently, and which caused the least complaint, was the following: ℞. Quiniæ sulphatis, gr. xv-xlv.; pulv. glycyr. ext., ℥i-℥ij.; syr. simplicis, ℥ ss.; aq., q. s. ad ℥ j. M.

This was given at one dose, or in three doses, fifteen minutes apart, especially when the larger doses were used. When patients tired of this, ext. glycyr. rad. fld. was substituted; it alters the color and somewhat the taste, still being almost equal to the former in disguising the bitterness. When these were refused, it was rubbed into a mass with glycerine (hydrochloric acid being added to increase solubility, and especially to reduce the bulk) and enclosed in gelatine capsules. In the one case in which it was given in the shape of suppositories

(℥ j. with gr. ij. pulv. opii, in two suppositories), it reduced the temperature satisfactorily, though not so promptly as when administered by the mouth. The hypodermatic method, being yet in bad repute as regards quinine, was not resorted to.

Morphia, in small doses, was frequently added when there was much restlessness or insomnia; it also seemed to heighten the action of the quinia, as has been claimed of this combination.

Where the stomach was very irritable, the following, with rare exceptions, was retained: ℞. Quiniæ sulphatis, gr. xv-xlv.; pulv. glycyr. ext., ℥j-℥ij.; bis-muthi subnit., ℥j-℥j; liq. morph. sulphatis, ʒ ss-ʒ jss.; aq., q. s. ad ℥ j. M. Sig. At one dose.

Much importance seemed to attach to the time of administration; a dose of 18 to 24 grains early in the morning, when the temperature was 103°, generally reduced it two or three degrees, though in some cases it merely kept it from rising, which condition held for thirty-six to forty-eight hours, when the dose would have to be repeated and increased.

Typhoid Fever.

The treatment adopted by Dr. G. P. ATKINSON in typhoid fever, brain symptom (*Brit. Med. Jour.*), is to apply a blister to the epigastrium. This he has found almost always to quiet the delirium and relieve the patient.—*Med. Record.*

Icteric Typhoid.

Towards the end of June, 1883, in the city of Torre Annunziata, several cases of acute jaundice occurred. The cases became more frequent, and the local medical men differed as to the nature of the disease. The provincial Council of Health was, therefore, petitioned to name a commission to investigate the disease, which was described as *icterus gravus*, or as acute yellow atrophy of the liver, as icteric typhoid, or even as yellow-fever. *Post mortem* examination of several bodies showed hæmorrhagic spots, acute tumor of the spleen, slight enlargement of the liver. Bile flowed easily into the duodenum; Peyer's patches were rather tumid; the cortical substance of the kidneys was somewhat congested and colored by a greenish pigment, pulmonary hypostasis, etc. Evidently the disease was an infective fever of not well-determined type, having as its prevailing symptom hæmatogenic jaundice, and probably typhoid in nature. The disease did not acquire a contagious or epidemic character. There were only twelve cases in the course of four months in a town of 25,000 inhabitants. Of the twelve cases seven were fatal. According to Hirsch, this bilious typhoid has been often observed on the southern and eastern coasts of Europe, and in the islands of the Mediterranean. Dalmatia, Greece, Constantinople and Asia Minor have at various times been visited by it. A few years ago a similar outbreak occurred

in Ancona. As to the etiology, no specific cause could be found; but the unwholesome state of the town is enough to account for anything. The drinking water is brought to the city in an open aqueduct, into which is thrown every sort of abomination; the subsoil is saturated with filth; the houses are dirty; there are no means of isolating the sick; and no disinfection of places or dead bodies is practised.

Decoction Limoni—An Antipyretic.

A decoction of lemons has been recommended by Tommasi-Crudelli and others in malaria, and now Dr. Lauchlan Aitkin, of Rome, in the *Brit. Med. Jour.*, gives it a wider therapeutic action and says that he has had good results from its use in gastric and enteric fevers, complicated with a malarial element towards their termination and in cases that might be called typho-malarial throughout. He lays great stress on the mode of preparation of the decoction. A freshly gathered and unpeeled lemon is cut into thin slices, which are put into three teacupfuls of water and boiled down to one cupful. This is allowed to stand over night in the open air and given the first thing in the morning after the liquid has been separated from the rind, pulp and seeds, by careful filtration and compression just before it is drunk.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

A New Antipyretic Method.

Dr. PREYER (*Centrb. f. d. Med. Wiss.*), discovered, that the temperature in the rectum shows a decrease of from 3° to 7° in guinea-pigs, upon whose cutaneous surface a spray of lukewarm water has been playing for twenty minutes. It is possible that the fine spray of the atomizer, moistening the hair of the guinea-pig, causes such a rapid