

Dose of this or other remedies, see page 7.

Bryonia: After continuing *Aconite* for from twelve or twenty-four hours, until the febrile symptoms are somewhat ameliorated, give a dose of *Bryonia* once in four hours, and *Aconite* every hour between the doses. Not only is *Bryonia* useful when the disease is caused by exposure and sudden atmospheric changes, but it is especially useful when the disease has a rheumatic origin. The above remedies should generally be continued several days, especially if the patient gets no worse, until the heat, even over the body, has been entirely relieved, when *Sulphur* should follow, either alone or alternately with *Bryonia*, at intervals of two hours. But if, instead of improving, the symptoms get worse, *Arsenicum* will generally be required.

Arsenicum may be given when, notwithstanding the use of the above remedies, the patient becomes very weak, the pulse small, frequent or irregular, the extremities cold, and if there is great tightness, weight, and difficulty of breathing, and inability to lie down, with great anxiety of countenance.

Belladonna: When at the commencement of the disease the pains are shooting and darting, extending through to the shoulder, perhaps down the arm, give this remedy alternately with *Aconite*, at intervals of one half-hour until the pains are somewhat relieved, then give *Bryonia* and *Aconite*, as directed under the head of *Bryonia*. In case there is violent headache, great restlessness, or delirium, a few doses of this remedy may be given at any time.

In cases where this disease is complicated with rheumatism, if *Aconite* and *Bryonia* fail to relieve the symptoms, give *Rhus tox.* instead of *Bryonia*.

Treatment of Chronic Pericarditis.—If an acute attack lingers, and threatens to become chronic, and the above remedies do not relieve the symptoms, give *Cannabis* once in two hours during the forenoon, and *Sulphur* once in four hours during the afternoon and evening. If, under such circumstances, the disease is associated with rheumatism, give *Rhus tox.* and *Sulphur* in the same manner. The above remedies are also useful in the chronic form of the disease. If they do not cure in either the acute or chronic form of the disease, give *Arsenicum* once in six hours.

General Measures.—At the commencement of an attack of acute pericarditis, apply over the heart a towel wrung from cold water, and over that four or five thicknesses of dry flannel; confine the whole to its place by a bandage around the body; wet the towel once in six hours. If, notwithstanding this application and the use of the remedies, the symptoms get worse, omit the cold cloths, and make hot applications—cloths wrung from hot water. The diet should be light at first, but if symptoms of great prostration ensue, give milk-and-water, mutton or chicken broth, or let the patient chew beef-steak.

ENDOCARDITIS.

(INFLAMMATION OF THE LINING MEMBRANE OF THE HEART.)

Rheumatism is by far the most frequent cause of this affection, although it may arise from exposure and other causes of acute diseases.

The general symptoms are very similar to those of pericarditis. Chills, followed by fever, uneasiness and oppression, a frequent, and at length a small and perhaps irregular pulse, great debility, faintness, and in severe cases, paleness and lividity of the surface, cold sweats and extreme anxiety, with, in desperate cases, symptoms of impending suffocation, are among the symptoms of this disease. There is generally little or no pain. On applying the ear over the heart we hear a sound somewhat similar to that caused by the passage of wind out of a bellows, therefore it is called the bellows murmur. It is generally soft at the commencement of the disease, but may become more or less rough. When we hear this sound in connection with the above symptoms, especially fever or rheumatism, we may be reasonably certain that the patient is suffering from the disease under consideration. But it will be well to bear in mind that in case of nervous and debilitated females especially, when the blood is thin and watery, and the face pale, we may have a similar sound without any disease of the heart, and without fever.

Inflammation of the substance of the heart itself is very rare;

except when it accompanies inflammation of its lining or external membranes, and there are no symptoms by which it can be detected if it exists.

Treatment of Endocarditis.—The treatment is very similar to that which has been recommended for pericarditis; make the same external applications, and follow the same directions as to diet. At the commencement of the disease give *Aconite* and *Belladonna* alternately at intervals of one hour. If the symptoms are not soon relieved give *Bryonia* once in four hours and *Aconite* every hour between. If the disease has been caused by rheumatism, and the above remedies do not relieve it within two days, give *Rhus tox.*, once in two hours. If there is much fever remaining, give a dose of *Aconite* between the doses of *Rhus*. If the patient is a female, and has never been troubled with rheumatism, after giving *Aconite* every hour for twelve hours, give *Pulsatilla* once in two hours. *Arsenicum* should generally follow the above remedies as soon as the acute symptoms are relieved. Give a dose once in four hours. If great prostration ensues at any time, with symptoms of threatening suffocation, small or irregular pulse and cold extremities, give *Arsenicum* every hour, and if at the end of twelve hours there is no improvement, give *Lachesis* at intervals of one hour, and beef-tea, or mutton-broth, and milk and-water for drink; let the patient if able, chew beef-steak, and swallow all but the fibrous parts.

CHRONIC VALVULAR DISEASE OF THE HEART.

HYPERTROPHY AND DILATATION.

From slow or chronic inflammation, the valves of the heart sometimes become thickened, indurated, and in some instances even bony, especially during advanced life. When such a change takes place, more or less mechanical obstruction is offered to the circulation of the blood through the heart. If the progress of the disease can be arrested before the obstruction becomes too great, the patient may continue to enjoy good health to old age; but if the degeneration increases, it gives rise to a train of symptoms

which sooner or later terminates in death; among which are the following: enlargement of the heart, dilatation of this organ, cough, spitting of blood, difficulty of breathing, congestion and inflammation of the lungs, dropsy of the chest, pale or livid face, swelling of the extremities, hemorrhage from different organs, nausea and vomiting, bilious derangements, drowsiness, and even apoplexy. When the disease is on the left side of the heart, the pulse is apt to be small, weak, and irregular, and sometimes it is jerking, being at first quick and strong, but rapidly receding as it were from the fingers, caused by the backward current of the blood through the imperfectly closed valves of the aorta. Disease of the valves of the right side of the heart has very little effect on the pulse. If we apply the ear over the heart we generally hear a sound similar to the bellows murmur, described under the head of endocarditis, but generally rougher and harsher, sometimes like the sound of a rasp or file. The sound, when heard most distinctly at the apex of the heart, which lies about one inch to the right and a little below the left nipple, often resembles the whispered word "who." If it is heard most distinctly above the base of the heart and in the direction of the large arteries which pass from the heart, if near the upper portion and toward the right side of the breast-bone, in the direction of the aorta, or large artery which comes off from the heart and through which the blood passes to every part of the system, the sound often resembles the whispered letter R; whereas if the sound is most distinctly heard near the upper portion of the breast-bone, toward the left, in the direction of the pulmonary artery which conveys the blood to the lungs, it often resembles the whispered letter S. We not unfrequently hear a sound over the heart very closely resembling a valvular murmur, which is simply a friction sound, and results from inflammation of the pericardium; but this sound is often heard distinctly over the entire heart, although sometimes it is much more circumscribed than the sounds which result from valvular disease, and occasionally cannot be heard over a space larger than a single square inch, and it is more superficial, and increased by pressing the ear firmly against the chest; still this sound is not unfrequently mistaken for that of valvular disease, even by physicians.

Property of DETROIT
HOMŒOPATHIC COLLEGE.

We occasionally have enlargement or hypertrophy of the heart. This affection may be caused by valvular disease, or it may exist without such disease; the same is true of dilatation of the heart. In hypertrophy the impulse, or stroke which is felt on applying the hand or ear over the heart during its pulsations, is much stronger than in health, and may be felt over a somewhat larger extent of the chest, but the sounds of the heart are generally less distinct than when there is dilatation. On the contrary, when there is dilatation, although the impulse is felt over a large space, it is soft and neither forcible nor heaving; and the sounds of the heart are loud and clear, and heard over a larger portion of the chest than in hypertrophy. But it requires a nice ear and much experience to detect with much certainty these chronic diseases of the heart, for we may have nervous affections so perfectly simulating them that physicians are often deceived. I have known patients who were told by more than one physician that they had incurable disease of the heart, and that they were liable to die any moment, when there was no disease. Nervous palpitation, and nervous pains about the heart, are often quite as severe as occur in any case of organic disease. In nervous females especially, when the countenance is pale and the blood is watery, we often have bellows murmurs, similar to those of organic disease, but generally less constant, and without roughness. Bear in mind that organic disease of the heart is exceedingly rare in young persons, except when caused by rheumatism, and even then, if recent, it is simply rheumatic inflammation, which can generally be cured. If mental emotions seriously increase the symptoms, the disease is generally simply nervous, especially if such emotions produce a greater effect on the symptoms than active exercise.

Treatment.—The remedies recommended for pericarditis and endocarditis, are the chief remedies for the various organic affections just described. If the disease has been caused by rheumatism, *Bryonia* and *Rhus tox.* are often useful, long after the active rheumatic symptoms have disappeared. *Sulphur* may follow the above remedies, and be continued as long as there is any improvement; afterward give *Arsenicum*.

When there is violent palpitation with strong impulse, give *Nux*

vomica at night and *Arsenicum* in the morning; and even when the impulse is feeble, or you fear valvular disease, these are valuable remedies; *Pulsatilla* and *Phosphorus* may be given in the same manner. *Lachesis* and *Belladonna* are also valuable remedies. If dropsical symptoms occur, give *Arsenicum* once in six hours, and if it fails to relieve, give *Apis mel.* once in two hours and consult the section on dropsy: but the use of the remedies named above, especially *Arsenicum*, will tend to prevent such symptoms.

For palpitation of the heart in nervous or hysterical individuals, if a female, give *Pulsatilla*, if a male, give *Nux vomica*; if one does not relieve give the other, in either case. Give a dose every hour until the symptoms are relieved, and then once a day to prevent a return. *Chamomilla*, *Belladonna*, and *Coffea*, are often useful. If the palpitation is caused by fright, give *Opium* or *Coffea*; if by fear, and the above remedies do not relieve, give *Veratrum*. If caused by sudden joy, give *Aconite* or *Coffea*. If by chagrin, give *Chamomilla*, *Ignatia*, or *Nux vomica*. If it occurs after the loss of blood, or other fluids, such as results in diarrhœa, leucorrhœa, and seminal emissions, give *China* two or three times a day.

ANGINA PECTORIS.

This is a nervous or neuralgic disease. It rarely attacks individuals under forty years of age, and it is more frequent with men than women. The indolent, corpulent, intemperate, gouty, and rheumatic subjects are more liable to it than others.

Symptoms.—This disease is characterized by severe paroxysms of pain, generally shooting pains, in the region of the heart, extending through toward the back and into the left shoulder, sometimes down the arm, with a sensation of numbness, and lasting from fifteen minutes to an hour. At first the paroxysms may only return at intervals of months, but gradually, if not checked by treatment, they are apt to become more frequent, perhaps occurring two or three times a day, or after the slightest exertion or mental excitement. They frequently occur after the first sleep at night. There is generally oppression of breathing and palpitation of the

heart, with sometimes a strong and full pulse; in other cases it is weak and irregular. The paroxysms differ much in severity in different cases; and even the pains are sometimes dull and aching, with a sensation of numbness, instead of sharp and acute. The paroxysms sometimes end in fainting, or in convulsions.

Treatment.—During the attack if the patient is of a full habit, and even if he is not, give *Aconite*, and if in fifteen minutes the symptoms are not relieved, give *Belladonna*. If these remedies do not relieve the symptoms soon, give *Nux vomica*.

To prevent a return of the paroxysms give *Nux vomica* at night and *Arsenicum* in the morning; at the end of a month lengthen the intervals between the doses to two or three days. If the paroxysms occur at night, after sleeping, give *Lachesis* at night instead of *Nux vomica*. *Pulsatilla* and *Ignatia* will sometimes be found useful in obstinate cases.

The patient must not use tobacco when troubled with this disease, or any affection of the heart, if he wishes to recover. Nor should he use tea or coffee. The diet should be light, easily digested and nourishing, but plain.

INTERMITTENT PULSE.

Persons otherwise in the enjoyment of pretty good health, sometimes find that their pulse intermits, or skips a beat occasionally, and are often very much alarmed. This irregularity of the pulse is perhaps more frequently caused by indigestion or dyspepsia than by any other cause, and is rarely an alarming symptom, but it should be enough so to induce a man to quit tobacco if he is using it, and also green tea.

Treatment.—Give *Nux vomica* at night and *Natrum muriaticum* in the morning. Be careful in regard to diet, and direct regular exercise. Gradually lengthen the intervals between the doses of the above remedies to three or four days.

FAINTING OR SWOONING (SYNCOPE).

This affection is characterized by a loss of consciousness, diminution, and perhaps in some instances a temporary cessation of the heart's action, with a more or less complete suspension of respiration. It sometimes occurs suddenly, in other instances it is preceded by clouded or deranged vision, mental confusion, nausea, sinking at the stomach, weak pulse, and paleness. Such symptoms sometimes pass off without loss of consciousness, but in other instances they increase until the fainting becomes complete, when the countenance is deadly pale and sunken, the surface of the body cool, the pulse absent or nearly so at the wrist, the breathing suspended, and consciousness gone. In some instances the urine and contents of the bowels pass off involuntarily. The duration of this state may be but for a few seconds or minutes, but in rare instances it may extend to hours, and even days, and yet the patient recover. Death occasionally results, especially when the fainting occurs from the loss of blood, or after an acute disease, or when there is organic disease of the heart. This disease may be caused by the loss of blood, debilitating discharges, nauseating medicines, tobacco, and other narcotics, depressing mental emotions, unpleasant sights, severe pain, drinking cold water when the body is hot, and by suddenly assuming the sitting or erect posture when the body has been debilitated by disease, the loss of blood or other fluids.

Treatment.—Always immediately place the patient in a horizontal position, with his head as low or even lower than the body. If you leave the patient sitting up, or even with a pillow under his head he may die. If he is sitting in a chair, tip him right over back in his chair, or lay him on the floor if no bed or lounge is at hand. Remove everything tight from around the neck and body. Dash a handful of cold water over the face, neck, and chest, wipe it off and dash on more, rub the limbs with your hands and slap the surface of the skin with the open hand. Let the patient smell of *Camphor*, and give a drop of it in a few drops of water. Admit fresh air freely. If the fainting results from a loss of blood, or

from the loss of other fluids, give *China* two or three times a day until strength is restored. *Carbo veg.* and *Nux vomica* are also useful in such cases. When caused by fright, fear, grief, or other mental emotions, and *Camphor* does not relieve the symptoms, give *Ignatia* or *Coffea*. If, when the disease has been caused by mental emotions, there is faintness during every attempt to raise the head, give *Opium* once in six hours, afterwards *Aconite*, if it is needed. If it is caused by violent pain, give *Aconite* or *Chamomilla*.

GOITRE—BRONCHOCELE.

This is an enlargement of the thyroid gland, which causes a swelling on the lower part of the neck, in front, just above the breastbone. The gland lies upon both sides of the trachea or windpipe; the two sides connecting by a thin portion, or bridge, extending over the latter organ. The enlargement may involve the whole gland, or it may be confined to one side, or even to the connecting portion in front of the windpipe. The cause or causes of this disease are unknown.

Treatment.—Give a dose of *Spongia* every night, and continue it for two or three months; rub hard and press the swelling frequently. If the above does not cure it, obtain at a Homœopathic Pharmacy, or at a Druggist's, one grain of Iodine and two grains of Iodide of Potassa, and dissolve them in one ounce of water, and give one drop of the solution in water, or on sugar, night and morning. Also obtain one drachm of Iodide of Potassa, and dissolve it in a pint of water, and every night wet a few thicknesses of cotton or linen cloth in it, and lay over the swelling, then cover well with dry flannel. Dr. E. R. Ellis, of Detroit, formerly a student of the author's, reports having cured several cases of Goitre by means of mechanical pressure. For this purpose an elastic band or rubber, of from one-half to two and a half inches in width, is passed around the neck and over the swelling, and gradually tightened, but only to a degree that will neither render it uncomfortable nor cause fulness of the head.

CHAPTER V.

DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.

DISEASES of the mouth, teeth, and throat, will be considered first, with the exception of the thrush, which will be left for the chapter on diseases of children.

CANKER OF THE MOUTH (CANCNUM ORIS).

With many individuals, while in comparative good health, occasionally a slight roughness and soreness will appear on the inside of the cheeks, on the gums, or on or beneath the tongue, followed by a small ulcer or two in the course of twenty-four hours. This is a slight disease, and of little consequence. A dose of *Mercurius viv.* two or three times a day will generally suffice to cure it soon; and the alternate use of *Mercurius viv.* and *Sulphur*, once or twice a week will tend to prevent a return of the ulcers. But the disease denominated cancrum oris, is a much more formidable and troublesome affection. It generally attacks children or young persons, and most frequently those who are ill-fed and live in damp and dark habitations. It is therefore found among the rich who feed their children on the miserable bread which superfine flour makes, and keep them in dark-curtained or shaded rooms; and also among the poor, such as lack proper food, and live in dark cellars and hovels.

Symptoms.—The mucous membrane covering the sides of the tongue, and inside of the cheeks, becomes red and inflamed, and afterwards covered with large ulcers, which may extend so as to cover both sides of the tongue, from near the tip to its roots, and also the inside of the cheeks. The tongue becomes swollen, showing upon its sides indentations caused by the teeth; there is a pro-