

M. MACLEAN, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

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MEDICAL.

From the Register and Library of Medical and Surgical Science.

New and efficacious method of treating Croup.—The following observations, from the pen of Dr. Lehman, staff surgeon in the Army, are well deserving of notice.

According to my experience, says Dr. Lehman, there is no better way of treating croup at its commencement than by the application of hot water to the larynx. [throat.] This method has the advantages of being simple, efficacious, and easily applied, and its good effects are not productive of any injury to the constitution. The proper time for the application of this method is at the very commencement of the disorder, when, as is usually the case, the child is awakened suddenly during the night by its invasion, no time should be lost, when we observe that the breathing is anxious, disturbed, and attended with the well known croupy sound, and a cough of a ringing character, &c. The symptoms are too well known to require enumeration here; suffice to say that the most speedy fatal cases are those, where the child goes to bed, apparently quite well, and not laboring under any catarrhal symptoms, and is awakened from a deep sleep by an attack of croup. Such cases often prove fatal in twenty-four hours. Even when thus intense, the disease may be arrested in its progress by the immediate application of hot water, in the following manner: a sponge about the size of a large fist, dipped in water as hot as the hand can bear, must be gently squeezed dry, and instantly applied beneath the little sufferer's chin, over the larynx and windpipe; when the sponge has thus been held for a few minutes in contact with the skin, its temperature begins to sink, and it requires to be dipped again in the hot water. It is better to have a second sponge ready, so that they may be applied alternately. [If a sponge cannot be procured, flannel, folded five or six times, may be used.] A perseverance in this plan, during from ten to twenty minutes, produces a vivid redness of the skin over the whole front of the throat, just as if a small sinapism had been applied. The redness must not be attended or followed by vesication; in the meantime the whole system feels the influence of the topical treatment; a warm perspiration breaks out, which must be encouraged by warm drinks, as whey, weak tea, &c., and a notable diminution takes place in the frequency and tone of the cough, while the hoarseness always disappears, and the rough, ringing tone of voice subsides along with the dyspnoea [difficulty of breathing] and restlessness; in short, all danger is over, and the little patient falls asleep, and awakes in the morning, without any appearance of having so recently suffered from so dangerous an attack. If, on the contrary, a slight cough still remains next day, it may be easily gotten rid of by means of diaphoretic and antiphlogistic remedies suited to a feverish catarrh. When the suitable application of hot water, in the manner above recommended, does not produce well-marked and evident relief, at first at the end of twenty-five minutes, then nothing more can be expected from a longer perseverance in it, and the increasing cough, hoarseness, anxiety and dyspnoea of the child, must be met by other means. I must observe, however, continues Dr. Lehman, that this method has not yet failed in my hands, when applied in the commencement of the disease, and it has been practised in several families I attended, in many cases successfully, and before my assistance could be procured.

We have never tried the remedy above prescribed for croup; nor should we wait to experiment with it if we had other remedies at hand. If we had not we should certainly try it; and we know it could do no harm in combination with other remedies. Our aim in giving it to our readers is to recommend a trial of it to parents in the country whose children are attacked by the croup when they happen to have no medicine.

Croup, unless arrested at once, is apt to prove a severe and very dangerous disease. In a practice of 14 years we have no recollection of having failed in a single instance, of promptly arresting it, when called at the commencement of the attack, as we commonly have been, by the following simple treatment.

To a teaspoonfull of Ipecacuanha [Hipo] we add five or six tablespoonfulls of warm water, and give one, every ten or fifteen minutes till it produces vomiting; minding to stir up the ipecacuanha before pouring out

*We think it probable that these night attacks of croup are frequently, if not generally brought on by the child's throwing off the cover; perhaps after being too thickly covered and getting into a perspiration. Parents who have children subject to croup should guard cautiously against this.

each dose. While this is doing we direct a warm bath to be prepared, and if the child is not entirely relieved by the ipecacuanha, we immerse it in the warm bath for some minutes, wipe it dry with a warm cloth and wrap it in a warm blanket the instant it is taken out of the water. It should be immersed up to the neck, otherwise the injury done by the exposure will be greater than the benefit derived from the bath. In putting the child to bed after it has been relieved, it is necessary to warm the bed clothes; otherwise a relapse more difficult to remove than the first attack is apt to be brought on, if the weather is cold.

Some physicians use tartar emetic, or which is the same thing, antimonial wine, in croup. It is very good; but we have not been in the habit of using it, because the ipecacuanha has always answered the purpose, and we prefer the milder remedies, particularly with children, when they are equally effectual with the severer. When the ipecacuanha is not at hand, the tartar emetic or antimonial wine (which is only tartar dissolved in water, and wine added,) may be used. Of the tartar one fourth of a grain may be given every fifteen minutes to a child from one to two years of age, and of the antimonial wine a teaspoonful, at the same intervals, till it pukes.

There is no danger to be apprehended from an over dose of ipecacuanha. But an over dose of the tartar might prove fatal. A very good form of giving the tartar emetic is Coxe's Hive Syrup, of which it is the most active ingredient. A teaspoonful is a dose for a child from one to two years old, when the object is to produce vomiting. The dose to be repeated if necessary.

If these remedies fail and the pulse is strong, let blood be drawn; and whether this is done or not, let calomel be given every two or three hours till it operates. The dose may be from one to two grains for every year of the child's age. Some physicians give it in larger doses. As soon as it operates, it commonly relieves the child of all distressing symptoms at once.

The snuff plaster is sometimes applied to the throat with advantage in cases of croup. It may be prepared by rubbing the snuff up in tallow, and then spreading it on a cloth. But it is very apt to get into the child's eyes and produce more or less inflammation.

Parents should bear in mind that croup is a disease, in the treatment of which not a moment of time is to be lost. If they live in the country they should, at all times, have a vial of ipecacuanha where they can lay their hands on it at once.

PARENTS' DEPARTMENT.

From the Mother's Magazine.
INTERVIEW BETWEEN MRS. JONES AND MRS. SMITH.

"Do you ask, then, what will educate your son? Your example will educate him; your conversation; the business he sees you transact; the likings and dislikings you express will educate him."

"Dear Mrs. Smith, how glad I am to see you? I have requested this interview, that I may avail myself of your friendly advice. Your former admonitions were not lost upon me. I am as one awakened out of a criminal slumber, and can see nothing before my family but inevitable ruin. My children, who have been so long indulged in habits of disobedience and idleness, are now becoming vicious. Why have I not perceived my errors before their consequences became irreparable? I fear I am forever doomed to be an unhappy mother."

"Not quite so bad, I would hope, Mrs. Jones. Though your children are in a dangerous condition, yet I am persuaded that you gain nothing by complaining, nothing by despondency. Rather seek to know the worst of your case! lay your heart open still more to conviction. Be willing to be made acquainted with yourself, and your faults, even at the expense of a right hand, or a right eye. I would guard you against a very common error; instead of complaining of your unhappiness to your fellow men, confess to your heavenly Father your sins and your ignorance. In the former case, you will only harden your heart; in the latter, it will be made tender and susceptible of divine impressions."

"I acknowledge with shame and regret, Mrs. Smith, that I have often parleyed with an awakened conscience. I have never felt satisfied that it was right to have my boys saunter away their time in the company of the vicious and the idle. Still, I flattered myself that the evils which would result to them from such indulgences, might soon be done away by a few months residence abroad. I hoped that when they became old enough to have fixed habits, they would listen to the voice of reason. Meantime my covetous disposition led me to believe that it could not be necessary, or even right, to spend my time, with my increasing little family, in attending either to their habits or their tempers. I trusted I could easily set them right by a few rigid lessons on the folly of indulging a perverse temper. And as their father and I have prided ourselves upon our industrious habits, by means of which we have acquired a competency, I expected, as a matter of course, that they would follow our example. The opinions I have so presumptuously entertained, now seem to be like the phantoms

of a disordered imagination. I have been led so far astray by a worldly spirit, that I despair of a reformation in any of my family."

"It is too apparent my friend that your children are in a sad way, and that you will have much to contend with. You will labor under many disadvantages in correcting their faults, and yet, I apprehend that your chief difficulty will be found in changing your own ways."

"I am greatly distressed, Mrs. Smith, to find that one trouble seldom comes alone; and what especially alarms me is, that one sin brings in its train others, so appalling to my awakened conscience, that they even now seem to hiss upon me like a nest of young vipers; but still I have not told you my heaviest misfortune. I feel like the unwary traveller, who, having heedlessly lost his way, is not merely ashamed to retrace his steps, but unwilling to avow the fact to others. I have not only lost the little influence I once possessed over my children, but my husband's manner is exceedingly changed. While our children were young, he was a most affectionate husband; and now, when I more than ever need his advice and assistance, in the management of our turbulent children, he often justifies them and condemns me. If I reprove them for glaring offences, he thinks I might have done it in a less objectionable manner. Though he does not always say this in words, yet the looks and gestures of my boys plainly indicate that in their opinion their father is right, and their mother is wrong; so that when this subject is brought up for discussion, it produces altercation, and usually ends in crimination and recrimination."

"You have presented a mortifying picture of the state of your family, Mrs. Jones. No wonder that you consider your children in a hopeless condition. Their insubordination would be awfully alarming, if you and your husband were at this moment, perfectly agreed as to the best mode of regaining your lost advantage over their hearts, minds, and consciences. You and your husband profess to be governed by the precepts of the Bible; but you will allow me to say that your daily conduct is at variance with its plainest dictates. Did I not hope that your heart was touched by the Spirit and grace of God, I should consider it fruitless to suggest any motives, however imperative, even for your consideration. It is worse than idle for you and your husband to spend your time in settling the question who is right, and who is wrong. If you knew that your house was enveloped in flames, and that both of you had been the means of the conflagration, would you spend your energies in settling the question which was the most in fault? A bystander would be shocked on witnessing such a contest, or listening to altercations under such appalling circumstances?"

"I fear, Mrs. Jones, you have fallen upon an error, which has destroyed many families. In such cases both parties are commonly to blame. I well remember, however, an instance to the contrary.—While I was residing in L. Mrs. R. and myself were on terms of the greatest intimacy. She had been blessed with superior education. When I first knew her, I felt that nothing was wanting but piety, to constitute her just the friend I should choose to supply the place of my excellent sisters, from whom I had been so recently separated. One year after our acquaintance, she became a decided Christian. The father of her husband was an eminent divine, and his family were of the first grade, both as to intellect and rank in society. My friend's husband had therefore enjoyed every advantage which an enlightened and Christian education could afford. For a considerable period I was left to conjecture the cause of his acquiring habits of intemperance, especially as his home was rendered enchanting to the virtuous and intelligent, by the smiles and graces of such a good, dignified and accomplished lady and housewife. But I subsequently learned that this son was the pet of his mother. She always thought her darling son must have every thing he wanted. Thus a habit of eating and drinking too freely, commenced in childhood, but ripened into excess after he became a husband and a father. Such was the commanding influence of this young man, when I first knew him, that it was often remarked, that if Mr. B. were a Christian, he might do more good in society than even our minister. But unfortunately his influence was thrown into the opposite scale. His business, if not wholly neglected, began to decline; his temper, naturally amiable, became at length austere and irascible. What a trial for the mother of five precious children! Though my intercourse with this lovely woman was more intimate than usually subsists between sisters, yet the unfortunate habits, the neglectful treatment, the unkind language, which this Christian sister continually received from the father of her children and the friend of her youth, was never, in a solitary instance, named, or even alluded to, by either of us; and it is believed that this good wife, on no occasion, ever broached this painful subject to any earthly friend. Her husband was always treated with courtesy and affection, and as became the master of his family, and thus he was honored in the sight of his children and servants. As might be expected from the judicious conduct of such a wife and mother, her children, who are nearly reared to manhood, promise to become the ornaments of society and the defenders of the faith."

"A number of years since, I was visiting in the family of one who bore the office of deacon or elder in the church, where I witnessed a most mortifying scene. A contest arose between the husband and the wife. The wife insisted that John should take out a log from the back of the chimney, as it would occasion a smoke. The husband, on the contrary, contended that as he had ordered it, and was master of his own house, the servant boy should put it on. Three interesting children were present to witness this pernicious example.—What a triumph it must be, which arises from seeing the partner of one's bosom vanquished, either by overpowering arguments, or made to submit to superior strength!"

"I once had occasion to point out to a Christian mother some defects I had discovered in her daughter, a promising girl of fourteen, who had spent some weeks in my family, when, in an almost despairing manner, she replied, 'I fear the inevitable ruin of that daughter. Her father thinks I am much too severe in my regimen with her, and I know that he is too remiss; so that between us both, I expect she will be ruined.' How important that parents, instead of comparing their views with a defective and partial standard, should consult the 'oracles of divine truth.' There is a standard of right and wrong, which is unerring."

"As I have had occasion to reside in many different families, it has often required but a few days' observation, to perceive that the intercourse between many a husband and wife, might be pronounced a game at 'even and odds.' If you became acquainted with the opinion of one, you might be sure that of the other would be directly opposite."

"When I was a child, I was very fond of the writings of Dr. Watts. I well remember the effort I made to comprehend this sentiment: 'Happy matches made in heaven.' Little did I then dream of the living comments on this subject which I should make in after life. I am indebted to a lady for the following statement: 'It is but justice to the living virtues of my aged and hoary headed father to say, that his own blessed example furnishes a model for the imitation of every husband and father. My mother's birthday happened on the 22d of February, the same day of the month with that of Gen. Washington. This day was therefore always celebrated as commemorating the birthday of two very important personages, Gen. Washington and my mother. Every child in the family was prompted by the example of papa, to exhibit unusual marks of respect and affection for this best of wives and mother, who was represented by her affectionate husband, to be as truly distinguished for her piety and good sense in her appropriate sphere, as Gen. W. was in his. How opposite this conduct from that displayed by many a husband, who fears to elevate the mother of his children to the dignity of 'mistress of ceremonies' in his family, from the mistaken apprehension that in doing this she may infringe upon his own rights. In speaking of the special attention given to my mother on her birthday, I would not be misapprehended. So invariably polite has my father ever been to my excellent mother, and so unconsciously has his respect been manifested, that you could not question the fountain from whence it flowed. There was no 'scrupulous exactness in paying those minute attentions' which should constitute the warp and woof of wedded love; they rather seemed like the descent of showers from clouds surcharged with moisture, or like emanations from the glorious orb of day, whose beams, while they enlighten and warm, exhilarate all surrounding nature."

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