

alternate days, brought down the temperature and cleared the lungs wonderfully. Mixture by mouth was also being continued at the same time.

(2) *Diseases of organs of locomotion*—19.

These were cases of rheumatoid arthritis, chronic synovitis and gonorrhœal rheumatism. These represent six cases. A cure was found with six injections in one case and the rest were greatly relieved, but these latter did not have an appreciable number of injections, each of them having 2 to 3 and discontinuing for several reasons, mostly being satisfied with the relief and unable to spare time.

(3) *Lymphangitis*—10.

Two cases of lymphangitis were treated and they were both cured. These were both chronic and of some years' duration. One had six and the other 4 injections.

(4) *Cellulitis, chronic ulcers, phagedena, and necrosis of bone*—12.

The inflammation in cases of cellulitis used to improve after one or two injections. When there was obvious suppuration, multiple incisions and continuous antiseptic baths were also used. In cases of chronic ulcers lasting for months with indurated edges and where scraping was refused, 2 or 3 iodine injections stimulated them to heal fast. In cases of phagedena the improvement was remarkable, even with the first injection. In cases of necrosis of bones the sequestrum used to separate with great rapidity and the discharge from the sinus became less foul every day; the wound used to close ultimately.

(5) *Furunculosis*—7.

During the height of summer some people are in the habit of suffering from crop after crop of boils on the face, hands and anywhere on the body. All external measures such as zinc, boric, ichthyol, antiphlogistine, etc., give only temporary relief. I have seen a course of Kalazana tablets with one or two iodine injections improve the condition marvellously.

(6) *Scabies*—22.

Persons suffering from scabies in these parts are a common sight at this dispensary. Cases were selected for iodine treatment. Such as had it all over the body or those suffering for several months were chosen. About three to four injections with nothing but general cleanliness locally twice a day improved them all.

(7) *Enlarged lymphatic glands, scrofular and otherwise*—7.

It is unfortunate that none of the cases underwent a thorough course. They were all improved after two or three injections each.

(8) The other 18 injections were—2 for chronic otorrhœa,—cured: 2 for pyæmia—the case stopped developing further abscesses and the abscesses then existing began to heal; 2 for general debility, where the patient felt much better; 12 for cases of tuberculosis of the lung, where sodium morrhate had stopped showing further improvement, or alternately with sodium morrhate. Two cases were thus tried and showed marked improvement.

In all the above cases the prescription given in the *Indian Medical Gazette* (iodine 1 dr., potassium iodide 1 dr., aqua distillata 5 oz. 2 dr.) was followed. If 1 dr. is taken to be equivalent to 27½ grains according to Avoirdupois weight, 20 minims of such a solution contains about one-fifth of grain of iodine, and with the dose suggested (3 to 6 minims) the iodine content is far too little. I therefore employed the above prescription with 10 minims as my initial dose, and increased it by 5 minims at every other injection until I reached 40 minims, which is approximately equal to half a grain of iodine. Intravenous iodine treatment in comparison with other methods is very cheap, saves a lot of trouble, and from the leucocytosis it produces may be claimed as a panacea. A time may come when many of the drugs in the *Pharmacopœia* may disappear and be displaced by iodine.

NOTES ON INFANTILE CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER.

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THE real and specific cause of this disease is not yet known. Whether it is due to the custom of artificial feeding in wealthy people with all kinds of patent foods irrespective of the indications and medical advice for the infant, or due to the remote or congenital effects of venereal diseases such as syphilis, etc., in the parents, or to feeding the infants concerned with pure cow's milk in unsuitable and large quantities, or to too early feeding of infants with starchy and fatty foods, or whether it is a food deficiency disease, has yet to be proved. Whatever may be the cause or causes of the disease, it is a fact that this disease is prevalent in those parts of South India where the use of patent and tinned foods is the rule in every well-to-do household, also in families where there is no regular system of giving foods suitable to a particular baby at a certain age. It is well known to all the Hindus that one of the religious observances during the period of one's life from birth to death is the food-giving ceremony, i.e., the *annaprasanam*. This ceremony is performed when the child attains a year of its existence

or thereabouts. This is a ceremony in which the child gets its "rice food" for the first time. It may be that this system has been made in accordance with the hygienic principles, like many other so-called mystic systems for which by the light of modern knowledge we can give a scientific explanation. People in the old days might have found out that giving rice or such other starchy food to infants when they are younger than a fixed age would be detrimental to their health. Nowadays as there is a wholesale condemnation of the so-called mystic ideas without duly considering their possible scientific basis, it is no wonder that many a disease, quite unknown during ancient days, has sprung up among us now. That infantile cirrhosis of the liver, though the exact aetiology of it is unknown, whether due to child's food either in excess or deficiency, contributes one of the important causes of infantile mortality in India is an almost settled fact. As mentioned above, the ceremony of giving rice for the first time practised in the Hindu families of Malabar, though this function ought to be conducted in every orthodox Hindu family, is not generally nowadays performed in the Tamil districts of South India. Infantile cirrhosis was almost unknown in Malabar, including the two Native States. So much so that the grandmothers of these parts do not even now know that there is such a disease at all. But on the other hand, the first thought that strikes a young pregnant woman in the Tamil district to-day is how to save her future infant from the disease. Evidently it goes without saying that infantile cirrhosis of the liver is very common among the infant population of these Eastern Districts. Is it possible that the early administration of starch and of fatty foods acts as a primary cause of its incidence? Whatever it is, one can say with confidence that rearing of infants in Tamil districts with a certain definite routine with regard to food, etc., is not what it ought to be. Not only is there great irregularity in their food as regards quantity and quality, but also the parents pay very little attention to personal hygiene. For example daily baths are not given regularly in these Eastern Districts which are very hot in summer.

Religious ceremonies and observances are numerous in the Hindu household, when all kinds of sweet dishes are prepared. The infant gets easy access to the eatables; one determined cry secures for him a couple of sweetmeat cakes. Sweet and starchy preparations will invariably be served up during a ceremony and not a month passes without a ceremony or two, not to mention the daily preparation of similar foodstuffs for others in the family.

The next point for consideration is the administration of patent foods, irrespective of

their quality and of the advice of medical men. It is customary nowadays among the Brahmin population of the district in which community the disease is most common, among the rich as well as the poor, to have ready bottles or tins of patent foods as soon as a woman's accouchment period approaches. Whether the use of such foods is the cause of the disease or not, it can be definitely proved that many alimentary disorders which always precede infantile cirrhosis are caused by the injudicious administration of such foods. Even from the second or the third day of an infant's life cow's milk with sugar is administered on the plea that the mother has not sufficient milk to feed her baby. We all know that cow's milk administered plain as it is will not be digested even by an older child. How much less is the power of the digestive mechanism of a poor baby a few days old? How could one legitimately think that such injudicious administration is not unintentional homicide? Is it not over-taxing the liver of the new born baby and paving the way for infantile cirrhosis?

A further point is the prevalence of syphilis among the parents. Though syphilitic cirrhosis of the liver stands by itself as a separate disease, there is not sufficient evidence to say whether paternal syphilis acts as a cause of the occurrence of infantile cirrhosis. Though not all, many of the cases of infantile cirrhosis of the liver which come to one's notice have a syphilitic taint in the parents. Also there are some cases of infantile cirrhosis which may be really syphilitic cirrhosis.

Alcoholism among the parents, though not uncommon, cannot be included among the aetiological factors. If alcoholism in the parents is one of the causes of infantile cirrhosis then the children of the poorer and lower classes ought to be affected in large numbers, instead of its high prevalent incidence among Brahmins and other high caste Hindus and Muhammadans where the drink evil is at a minimum.

Suspicious causes such as malaria, kala-azar, rickets, scurvy, etc., can very well be excluded as aetiological agents, as such ailments have a definite and clear cut clinical history with them.

The disease is found mostly among Brahmins and other high class Hindus and Muhammadans. But it is rare among the Brahmin population of Malabar: and still less in other castes. The daily bath given to the baby with withholding of carbohydrates, etc., until the infant is able to digest them, the rainy climates of Malabar, the lower incidence of venereal diseases among the parents, the invariable breast feeding of infants in whatever sphere of life, may afford protection to the infants of Malabar from this dreadful disease.