

conclusion, so widely different from that of the previous analysts, demands our expression of the reasons which induce us to form it. Without entering on a minute review of their report, we shall confine ourselves to observe, that it is completely irrational to advance suspicions of the presence of small quantities of arsenic when they cannot be separated; and that it is equally wrong to advance an opinion founded on the comparative experiments mentioned in the reports. This practice is not only fallacious, but dangerous in the extreme. The comparative effect of reagents can only be fairly estimated on substances of nearly identical qualities. The fluids on which these gentlemen operated were coloured yellow by an organic colouring matter, while their solution of arsenious acid was perfectly colourless. The analogy of effects on two such dissimilar solutions is surely not to be relied on. Again; we must declare that the concluding opinion in the original report, far from receiving support from attested facts, is altogether controverted by the present state of knowledge. If an arsenical solution produces immediate vomiting, it cannot occasion fatal visceral disorganization; at least we are acquainted with no fact of this description.

CASES ILLUSTRATIVE OF DR. LUGOL'S
TREATMENT OF
CUTANEOUS SCROFULA

BY THE LOCAL AND INTERNAL USE OF
IODINE.*

CASE 1.

AUGUSTUS JARRY, *ætat.* 24, of small and stunted stature, as if of a person but ten years old, was admitted into the Hospital St. Louis, on the 5th of January, 1830. His state of suffering and marasmus completely baffles description. His arms and legs were ulcerated, shrunk, and in certain situations almost devoid of muscular coverings. The left arm especially was reduced to the humerus, and a thin layer of muscular fibres. The deltoid muscle was laid bare, except superiorly and posteriorly, where some traces of cutaneous tissue remained. The shoulder of the same side was ulcerated longitudinally to the extent of six inches and a half from the external extremity of the clavicle to the inferior spine of the scapula. The right arm was a little less ulcerated, some traces of skin still remaining, forming insulated spots in the midst of ulcers which, isolated at first, subsequently invaded the

entire circumference of the upper two-thirds of the arm.

Both legs, deprived of integuments, presented the same aspect as the arms. From these ulcers, for twelve years, more than a pint of pus was daily discharged. This secretion increased towards the end of winter, and continued more abundant during the spring and the greater part of the summer. On the trunk, the thighs, and the fore-arms, the skin was dry and lichenous, and the cutaneous transpiration arrested. The emaciation, ever great, was, for the last eighteen months, increased by profuse ill-conditioned diarrhoea, a discharge perhaps supplementary to the suppressed perspiration. Usually the number of stools amounted to twenty daily, and were generally bloody and accompanied with cutting pains.

The disease just described was of twelve years' standing, and had been preceded by a tubercular swelling in the left submaxillary region. Both before and since the appearance of this tumour he was subject to obstinate chilblains, to sores of the nose, and especially to aphthæ, which, since the age of two years, returned annually at the end of winter, and during the spring and summer effected much injury to the mouth and pharynx.

The history of the causes of his illness contributed to render the prognosis more distressing. His paternal grandfather died of ulcerated legs. His father was for several years confined to bed by the same infirmity, and he was, moreover, tainted with syphilis when the present patient was begotten. Of seven brothers and two sisters, eight died between three and four years old, one only survived to seven, and was then purblind with ophthalmia. All were, like the present patient, afflicted with chilblains. His only remaining sister was manifestly scrofulous in a high degree. Many of his collateral relatives had either fallen victims to, or actually laboured under various scrofulous affections.

A cure in this case was scarcely anticipated, notwithstanding the encouraging examples of the omnipotence of this remedy which we had already collected. His treatment was commenced on the 6th of January, 1830. After local bathing with an iodurated solution, the ulcers were dressed with pledgets of lint strongly covered with the ointment of the proto-ioduret of mercury. The condition of the large intestines did not yet permit the internal administration of iodine.

In a few days the appearance of the ulcers was improved. The right leg was cured in three weeks, and the left arm at the end of February. The cure even proceeded too rapidly, for his respiration became impeded, his head heavy, and spontaneous vomiting

* Troisième Mémoire sur l'Emploi d'Iode dans les Maladies Scrofuleuses. Paris. 1831.

and nausea occasionally supervened during the space of a fortnight. A Burgundy pitch plaster was applied to the chest, manna was twice administered, and a pitch plaster also placed on the back. The plasters were, however, discontinued in eight days, when the sulphureous baths were opened in the hospital; and a more effectual means thus afforded of recalling the cutaneous perspiration, the only indication the plasters seemed capable of fulfilling.

April 11th. During the three preceding months, I now felt that I had perhaps conceived an erroneous notion of the nature of the diarrhœa. I had regarded it in some degree as a supplementary function to the impeded cutaneous excretion, but on more mature deliberation, and on recollecting the aphthous state of the mouth and fauces, I was rather inclined to refer it to a similar condition of the intestinal canal. As I would not hesitate to touch aphthæ with ioduretted solutions even of rubefacient or caustic power, I therefore consider that I might safely and effectually prescribe the internal use of the ioduretted mineral water.* Half a grain, therefore, was daily taken, and the diarrhœa, already much amended by the sulphureous baths, was entirely cured at the end of a month.

From the end of February the dressings were with the ointment of simple iodine alone. It being apprehended that the mercurial action might aggravate the aphthous state of the intestinal tube, the local action of the various ointments was worthy of notice,—that of the proto-ioduret of mercury having caused great excitement, while the simple iodine ointment was scarcely felt. The reverse of both these effects is usually witnessed. The ioduretted mineral water proved highly diuretic. The internal dose of the iodine for the last three months, was three-fourths of a grain daily.

I should add, that after the 15th March I touched the ulcers with the rubefacient solution, and even with the caustic iodine, in order to hasten the cure of several ulcerated points on the right arm, and of an ulcer an inch and a half in circumference, which had long existed on the middle of the right leg. I wished also to improve the appearance of the cicatrices, to render them less depressed, red, and deformed. All these indications were most satisfactorily fulfilled, and the ulcers healed so perfectly, that but a very faint idea could be formed of their former magnitude.

July 25th, 1830. The cure was complete after six months and twenty days of the

* In like manner the infantile catarrh in scrofulous subjects by no means contra-indicates the use of iodine. I have acquired the most fixed conviction on this point from long experience with hospital and private cases.

iodine treatment. He was retained for some time in the hospital, in order to watch the cicatrices which at first adhered in some places to the bones, but accordingly as the fat became increased in quantity, the whole cutaneous system again returned to its normal condition, and his fulness every day increased. The increase in size, weight, and plumpness, from a state of emaciation, under the use of iodine, is too important to be passed by without notice.

CASE 2.

Eloi Macaire, æt. 22, born of unknown parents, admitted April 19, 1830. Having been first placed in one of the surgical wards, he was transferred to me by my colleague Dr. Cloquet, who, regarding him as incurable by the ordinary modes of therapeutics, wished to afford me a new opportunity of testing the powers of iodine.

The patient was literally covered with old scars and scrofulous ulcers still in an open state. Both sides of the face and neck were invaded by wide, deep, soft ulcers, with soft gelatinised edges, extending from the ears to the chin and the base of the sternum. The surface of this vast ulceration presented irregularities, in which were clearly perceptible the three principal sores of which it was composed. The base of these ulcers was tubercular, and surrounded with indurated cellular tissue, rendering the movements of the lower jaw difficult and painful. The head and cervical vertebræ in fact seemed but to form one piece. The separation of the jaws was so limited that a two-sous piece could not be introduced between the teeth. Mastication was consequently impossible, and the patient could only swallow liquid aliments, and even these with much difficulty and pain.

Behind the middle region of the right sterno-mastoid muscle there was an oval ulcer two inches long, with a tubercular base. Above the humeral extremity of the right clavicle was a tumour larger than the closed hand, communicating a sense of fluctuation, passing under the clavicle and projecting on the chest. The unity of the abscess was proved readily by pressure above and below the clavicle.

Beneath this cyst a bag-shaped ulcer three inches long extended obliquely from the left towards the xyphoid cartilage. This was the primary ulcer which had existed since the age of three years, and had never been healed. The long duration and aspect of this sore, and especially its resistance to the numerous remedies tried for its relief, led to the belief that it was kept up by the caries of the ribs and sternum, and had induced several surgeons to propose the trephining of these bones.

To conclude this catalogue of ulcerations,

the right axilla was occupied by a tubercular tumour presenting two ovoid ulcers placed one above the other, the inferior advancing rather to the front of the chest. These two ulcers had existed since the patient was nine years old. Those of the face and neck were but of four months' duration, and the indolent clavicular abscess had commenced but two months before the patient's admission into the Hospital Saint Louis. The symptoms underwent an annual exacerbation in June, and the suppuration was then much increased.

The abdominal parietes, the lower part of the left side of the chest, the neck and limbs, presented numerous scars of the worst character.

Macaire had passed almost his whole life in different hospitals and asylums. Having exhausted all the resources of the first establishment he was received into, he passed five months in the Civil Hospital of Lisle, without the slightest advantage. The organic lesions, already so numerous and so severe, and which had produced great debility and emaciation, were but too effectually assisted by the deep moral dejection of this unhappy young man, who since his birth had only experienced the most perfect state of disease, pain, misery, and destitution.

May 12, 1830. Ioduretted treatment. The sub-clavicular abscess was punctured, and there escaped a quantity of pus, or rather of softened tubercular matter, readily recognisable by its purulent and cheesy aspect. A solution of iodine was injected into the cyst and allowed to remain therein some minutes. The ulcers were dressed with charpie, strongly charged with the proto-ioduret of mercury. He was placed also on the use of the ioduretted mineral water, and he was ordered three sulphureous baths weekly.

26. Parietes of the abscess adherent; generally improved.

June 15. Ulcers of the face and neck cicatrised. The only remaining sore was that corresponding to the middle region of the sterno-mastoid muscle. The thoracic and axillary ulcers were replaced by well-conditioned scars. For three weeks he had recovered the free movements of his head and jaws, of which latter circumstance he availed himself with much pleasure.

July 10. Respiration embarrassed, cough, diminished appetite, sterno-mastoid ulcer suppurates pretty well. I had retarded the cure of this ulcer for some time, regarding it as a natural and beneficial issue. The analogy of these symptoms to those witnessed in the case of Jarry, decided me to use the same treatment, and it was attended with equal success. In this case also the touching of the ulcers, in the second fortnight of their treatment, with the con-

centrated solution of iodine, was attended with such striking local improvement, that it was perfectly visible from day to day, so that I was obliged to restrain it very soon, lest the sudden suppression of the ulcers should give rise to any dangerous effects.

25. Appetite good, sleeps well, and feels happy. His only remaining ulcer was dressed once daily with the ointment of the proto-ioduret of mercury; his daily dose of iodine in solution was three-quarters of a grain. The cicatrices were touched twice a week with the rubefacient solution, or caustic iodine, in order to diminish their redness, smoothness, and prominence.

October 25. In every respect as well as possible. The cicatrices were excellent, and no longer could convey any notion of the disease from which they resulted. Up to this time the local and internal treatment had been persisted in. The last ulcer was now healed, or very nearly so, its reopening being encouraged from time to time for reasons already specified.

Dec. 31. Local treatment neglected for two months. The mineral water was continued in order to confirm the cure. No relapse has since taken place, and every thing seems to promise permanent good health.

THE PER-CENTAGE SYSTEM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am a constant reader of your invaluable publication, being convinced that it is a channel through which medical knowledge flows in profusion, through which medical men are stimulated to the highest attainments of their profession, and through which all attempts at quackery, monopoly, and imposition, are seized, dissected, and demonstrated by an instrument well calculated for the occasion. Having lately perused No. 389 of your work, I was gratified on observing the able manner in which your correspondent "*Amicus Justitiæ*" has exposed the trafficking system which exists between physicians and chemists, and feeling persuaded that publishing the names of the offending parties is the only chance of "*striking terror to their hearts.*" I shall follow the laudable example of your correspondent, and relate a circumstance which occurred to myself a few days ago.

A respectable female, with a prescription in her hand, entered the surgery where I am residing, remarking at the same time she had been to consult Dr. Marshall Hall, who lives in Manchester Square, and who had written a prescription, and had been *very particular* in desiring her to get