

the intervals between the doses should be long enough to enable the child to recover somewhat from the sedative influence.—*Ibid.*

EMPIRICAL USE OF OPIUM IN CHILDREN.

There are two ways in which opium is used by persons out of the profession, in both of which it proves injurious to the child. The first is by giving it in occasional doses; the second, by giving it constantly. The first is bad enough, but the second is still worse. The first, now and then, unexpectedly destroys a child; the second is followed by a train of the most disgusting consequences, worse, if possible, than those of habitual drunkenness in the adult. Fortunately, these latter cases are not of such frequent occurrence; occasionally, however, they are met with where the parent, for the purpose of quieting it, has been induced to keep a child for months under the daily influence of paregoric, Godfrey's Cordial, or some other opiate nostrum. In these cases, the effect is to stunt the growth of the child; it is emaciated and puny; the skin is flabby and shrivelled; the lips are bloated, and the countenance sallow and wrinkled. There is an absence of all intelligence, and the whole appearance is haggard and aged, presenting a sort of "miniature of old age." Not long since Dr. Beck witnessed a case of this kind, in which a child of 14 months did not appear larger than one of two or three months. With the exception of one month, it had been kept upon paregoric almost every day since its birth. The mother was a poor woman, and stated that she had resorted to this method of keeping the child quiet while she attended to her work.—*Ibid.*

OPERATION FOR EMPYEMA.

The place to operate on in empyema, according to the opinion of the late Professor Colles, is referable to the inferior angle of the scapula. Place your patient on the side opposite to where the matter is; place his arm of the affected side on a line with the body, the elbow being just over the highest part of the crest of the ilium; you then have the scapula fixed; then measure four fingers' breadth from the angle of the scapula, and four fingers' breadth transversely from the spinous processes of the vertebræ (to get clear of the thick mass of muscles near the spine), until it meets the perpendicular line, where they decussate, there you should puncture.—*Dublin Medical Press.*

ALCOHOLIC LOTION IN PHTHISIS PULMONALIS.

The following lotion and method of applying it are recommended by Dr. Marshall Hall in the treatment of incipient phthisis. A piece of soft linen, of the size of a very large sheet of letter paper, being folded in the usual manner, is then folded twice more, in lines parallel with the first, so that the whole consists of six folds. These are stretched, applied across the upper part of the thorax just below the clavicles, and fastened to the shoulder-straps, or other part of the dress, which latter is to be arranged so as to be readily opened and closed. A sponge, the size of a walnut, is then filled with the lotion, which consists of one part of pure alcohol mixed with three parts of water, and pressed upon the linen along its whole course, the dress being opened for the purpose, and immediately closed. The lotion should be applied warm at first, and afterwards of the temperature of

the atmosphere. The operation need not occupy five seconds, and should be repeated every five minutes, during the day and all waking hours, the dress being light or even entirely removed, so as to allow of free and rapid evaporation. Other means recommended by Dr. Marshall Hall, are changes of air; free exposure to the sea breezes; a sea voyage; a mild climate; a chalky soil; a locality screened from the north east winds; gentle exercise, especially on horseback; a meat diet, with a little of Bass's ale, perhaps, but otherwise without stimulus; the system of sponging with the sea water, or salt and water, or vinegar and water; light clothing, with flannel next the skin, &c.; the plan recommended by the late Dr. Stewart, &c.—*Lancet.*

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Practical Observations on the Prevention, Causes, and Treatment of Curvatures of the Spine; with an Etching and Description of an Apparatus for the Correction of the Deformity, and Engravings illustrative of the cases. By Samuel Hare, Esq., Surgeon. Second Edition. London: Churchill. 1844. pp. 173.

Observations on the Proximate Cause of Insanity. By James Sheppard, M.R.C.S. London: Longmans. 1844. pp. 104.

Copy of Correspondence between the Poor Law Commissioners and the Guardians of the Wells Union, relative to the dismissal of Mr. George Newman from Medical Superintendence of the Poor of the Glastonbury District. 1844. pp. 23.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. Crowfoot, Investigator, Mr. Druitt, and Mr. H. Wilson.

Several communications previously received are in type, which will appear as soon as we can make room for them.

It is requested that all letters and communications be sent to Dr. Streeten, Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels, and books for review, may be addressed to the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal, care of Mr. Churchill, Princess Street, Soho.

NOTICE.

In consequence of the usual supply of stamps not having arrived in time, a portion of this week's impression sent by post is worked off on unstamped paper—due notice having been previously given to the Stamp Office.