

impotence is not unfrequently the result of organic lesions of the nerve centres, and its treatment by electricity is then only of importance so far as it serves as an illustration of the stimulating or tonic influence of the remedy.

Not unfrequently there is observed in connection with defective power, a partial *anæsthesia* of one-half, usually the left half, of the penis. This may be detected by an electric examination, or by the use of the *æsthesiometer*. It is frequently associated with a coldness and blueness of the organ, indicating lowered circulation and nerve power. Occasionally, the *anæsthesia* is quite profound, and as a rule, the sexual weakness is in proportion to the *anæsthesia*.

In these cases, this numbness appears to be the cause of the impotence, partial or complete, which exists. By the application of the ordinary electric brush to the parts, in the same way that we treat any case of local *anæsthesia* the numbness is often removed, and the integrity of the sexual functions is restored.

In those milder forms of impotence, where there is simply a premature ejaculation of semen (*emissio intempestiva*) with some diminution of the power of erection, as well as in the more advanced stages, where the desire is capricious and the power of erection pretty well destroyed, it is evident that there must be a degree of paralysis at the root of the disorder, dependent on structural changes in the nerve centres; or else this impaired power or tone in the muscles and erectile tissue may be of a purely local character. In the latter case, the indications are clearly the same as in any other form of local paralysis, and much relief may be obtained by faradization of the ischio-cavernosus and bulbo-cavernosus muscles. But when due to structural change, little can be expected.

When, on inquiry, it appears that the seminal secretion is markedly reduced, not only in quantity but in quality, we may consider that there are undoubted indications for the use of electricity. The galvanic current, especially, has the power of exciting to increased activity the secretory function of various glands, and not seldom accelerates physiological mucous discharges.

We cannot, however, depend upon local treatment alone. The excessive use of sedative narcotics, sedentary habits and general malnutrition from any cause, demand the general constitutional tonic influence of general faradization.

The vesiculæ seminales and the testicles may be affected, and in some

patients very powerfully and sensibly, when one of the poles is applied to the lower part of the spine, and the other to some point on the thigh or against the perinæum. A very good way to affect the male reproductive organs, is to apply one pole firmly against the perinæum and the other upon the testicles.

Faradization of the genital organs should not, usually, be protracted longer than five or ten minutes; galvanization from two to eight minutes. The faradic current would appear to be preferable. Impotence, like seminal emissions, may sometimes be treated by connecting the steel sound introduced into the urethra with one of the poles of the faradic current, thus combining the toning effects of pressure with the toning effects of electricity on the relaxed parts.

PROF. A. A. O'NEIL, OF SAN FRANCISCO.

This surgeon has called attention to the frequency of impotency from *elongated prepuce*. (*Western Lancet*, August, 1873.) The variety he refers to, and which he believes most prevalent, affects, usually, young men from twenty to thirty years of age, married as well as single, and manifests itself by imperfect erections, and that frigidity which, by force of an immoderate ardor, seizes the individual even in the very lap of fruition; or, at best, when coition is attempted, produces an almost instantaneous ejaculation of semen, thus violating some one of the indispensable conditions for the perfection of the procreative act; namely, erection, intromission and ejaculation.

For the relief of this condition he has adopted *circumcision*, with almost constant success; selecting, of course, such cases where other causes are not apparent. Even when the prepuce is perfectly retractile, the operation may be called for, as by exposing the glans, its surface is rendered less sensitive, and hence less liable to be prematurely excited.

A *narrowed urethral meatus* has also been pointed out as a cause of urethral irritation and hyperæsthesia, leading to premature ejaculation and practical impotency. Division by the knife or gradual dilatation by bougies, are the measures called for in such a condition.

PROF. RICHARD M'SHERRY, OF BALTIMORE.

499. R. Fld. extract. ergotæ, f.ʒ vij
Acidi phosphorici diluti, f.ʒj. M.

A teaspoonful three times a day, in sexual debility.

According to the researches of Prof. LEVI, of Pisa, the therapeutical properties of ergot are due partly to the presence of phosphoric acid, and are increased by such a combination as the above.

PROF. WILLIAM A. HAMMOND

500. R. Zinci phosphidi, gr. $\frac{1}{6}$. M.
 Extracti nucis vomicæ, gr. $\frac{1}{4}$.
 For one pill, thrice daily.

Loss of memory and impotency from sexual or solitary excess, are very favorably influenced by the phosphide of zinc.

PROF. S. D. GROSS, M. D.

In the temporary impotence which often afflicts young men who have been addicted to masturbation, the assurance of speedy recovery is often sufficient, combined with a tonic, such as:

501. R. Tincturæ nucis vomicæ, āā f. $\frac{3}{4}$ ss. M.
 Tincturæ ferri chloridi,
 Tincturæ cantharidis,
 Ten drops thrice daily.

Dr. BEGBIE has shown that the oxalic diathesis diminishes the sexual power and occasionally extinguishes it. The phosphatic diathesis acts similarly, but in a less degree.

PROF. ARTHUR GAMGEE, M. D., F. R. S.

This writer is of opinion that sufficient attention is not given to counter-irritation of the spine in debility arising from sexual excess, masturbation, etc. (*Practitioner*, February, 1877.) For this purpose he prefers the *Linimentum Sinapis comp.*, B. Ph., containing the ethereal extract of mezereon and the essential oil of mustard.

When prepared with pure essential oil of mustard, the liniment should possess a pungent odor, and should produce an almost painfully acute sensation in the nostrils when it is smelt.

If properly prepared, a few drops of linimentum sinapis, sprinkled over a pad of cotton-wool ten or twelve inches long and four or five inches broad, will suffice to produce, in a few minutes, pretty intense redness of the skin of the back, accompanied by more or less of the painful burning sensation characteristic of mustard.

As a rule, however, where it is deemed necessary to keep up counter-

irritation of the back for considerable periods of time, it is best to cause the patient to wear a strip of spongio-piline four or five inches broad and of the length desired. In the case of persons with tender skins, the irritation and pain caused by even a very few drops of the liniment, (which is diffused by sprinkling and rubbing one part of the spongio-piline against the other,) is so considerable, that the application cannot at first be continued for many minutes. After a day or two the patient usually becomes able to bear the strip for several hours, and finds that the sensation of irritation is decidedly more pleasurable than painful. If, as frequently happens, the patient, having experienced benefit from previous applications, has sprinkled too large a quantity of the liniment upon the spongio-piline, the irritation produced may be so considerable as to compel an intermission of the treatment for a day or two. The irritated part then remains usually deeply congested and hot for several hours, only very rarely presenting any vesications.

The great advantages of the linimentum sinapis over any other similar preparation lies in the fact that it produces a remarkably active irritation of the sensory nerves of the skin, which subsides, to a great extent, when the preparation is removed, but which can be renewed almost indefinitely without leading to any eczematous, pustular or ulcerative condition.

RÉSUMÉ OF REMEDIES.

Alcoholic Stimulants have, as a general rule, proved of no efficacy in these cases, and by some surgeons are considered distinctly contra-indicated.

Aurum. The chloride of gold, and the chloride of gold and sodium, have a strongly specific power over the sexual organs. Dr. BARTHOLOW believes that premature decline of the sexual power in man may be prevented by their use. When the symptoms complained of are weak and inefficient erections, inability for the reproductive act, due to irritability of the organs, diurnal seminal losses, etc., these troubles may be removed by the gold salts. Coldness and lack of passion in women are more certainly cured by these agents than by any other purely medicinal means. As they are actively poisonous substances, they must be used with caution. The dose of the *auri chloridum* is gr. $\frac{1}{30}$ – $\frac{1}{15}$; of *auri et sodii chloridum*, gr. $\frac{1}{30}$ – $\frac{1}{15}$ in pill form, thrice daily. *Auri pulvis* is officinal in Great Britain, gr. ss–ij, thrice daily. In plethora of the sexual organs, they increase the frequency of nocturnal seminal losses.

Belladonna. This drug is recommended by Dr. H. H. TOLAND for invigorating the reproductive organs, especially in persons advanced in years, and those debilitated or partly impotent from excessive masturbation. He combines it with nux vomica or with quinine.

Cannabis Indica. The extract of Indian hemp (hasheesh) is said to exert a strongly aphrodisiac power. It is probable that this, like many manifestations of this drug, is confined to certain temperaments in certain surroundings. Those who have experimented with it have rarely recorded any perceptible exaltation of the venereal sense.

Cantharides. Regulated doses of cantharides are often of great service in impotence. As an aphrodisiac it is of little value, as the erections it causes are devoid of pleasurable sensation, but cautiously used as a stimulant it has important applications.

Cimicifuga. It is asserted by BARTHOLOW that this drug stimulates the venereal appetite in man and promotes the menstrual flow in women. On account of these aphrodisiac effects, he recommends it in those cases in which the organs are relaxed, the erections weak, and the seminal discharges feeble, premature and liable to occur on slight excitement. It is important that preparations from the fresh root be employed.

Conium. The hemlock has an ancient reputation as a sexual tonic. Combined with iron, in the formula suggested by the late Professor WM. TULLY, M. D., of Yale College, Dr. C. BAKER has lately employed it in various cases of genital exhaustion with good results. (*Cinn. Medical News*, July, 1875.)

SYRUPUS CONII ET FERRI SESQUIOXIDI.

502. R.	Ext. conii maculati,	℥v.	
	Extracti ferri sesquioxidi,	℥v ad x.	
	Syrupi tolutani,	f. ℥ij ad iv.	
	Olei cinnamomi,		
	Olei gaultheriæ procumbentis,	āā	℥x.
	Sacchari officinalis,		℥ij ad iv.
	Spts. vini gallici,		℥ij ad viij.
	Aquæ fontanæ,	q. s. ut fiat mist.	Oij. M.

A tablespoonful for a dose. This much contains not quite gr. v of the extract of conium. The dose may be doubled if required. The taste is rather pleasant, and the appetite is increased by it.

Damiana. This product of a Mexican species of *Turnera* has recently been much lauded as a tonic of debilitated sexual organs. The dose is f. ℥j of the fluid extract, three times daily. The testimony regarding its value is conflicting, and it has certainly failed completely in a number of cases, and seems to have succeeded chiefly when combined with steel, strychnia, electricity and other agents which, without it, would probably have led to the favorable result claimed. It is liable to produce digestive disorders, which can be partially obviated by combining it with cinchona and sherry wine. (*New Preparations*, Jan., 1877.)

Dioscorein. This active principle of *dioscorea villosa*, the wild yam, is stated by Dr. EDWARD R. MAYER (*Hints in Specific Medication*, 1876, p. 18,) to give marked increase in tone and greater sexual vigor to the male genital organs. He employs one-tenth of a grain of dioscorein, rubbed up with sugar, and continues it in this dose, for a considerable time. He does not consider it an aphrodisiac, but a tonic.

Sodium. Gr. j, in syrup, thrice daily, is stated by Dr. SCUDDER to be a stimulant and tonic to the genital organs.

Matico. As an alterative stimulant to diseased mucous membranes, matico is much employed in Peru as an aphrodisiac. It is probably especially useful in cases connected with chronic prostatitis and with abnormal urethral irritability.

Nux Vomica. See Strychnia.

Oleum Morrhuæ.

503. R.	Olei morrhuæ,		
	Syrupi zingiberis,		
	Mucilag. acaciæ,	āā	f. ℥ij.
	Olei caryophylli,		gtt. vj. M.

A tablespoonful three or four times daily.

Recommended by Dr. H. HARTSHORNE in the wasting which accompanies impotence from spermatorrhœa.

Phosphorus. In many cases of impotence, no remedy is more efficient than phosphorus. It is, of course, adapted to those which are functional in origin, not the result of organic defect. According to Mr. J. A. THOMPSON, it is important that it be given in small tonic doses, gr. $\frac{1}{30}$ – $\frac{1}{60}$, for a long time, and not in larger quantities. Even this, for some constitutions, is a large dose. Its results are often flattering at first, but not permanent, and the patient must be strongly admonished to use his regained power with the utmost moderation. (*British Medical Journal*, 1873.)

Polygonum Punctatum. Smart-weed or water-pepper, f. ℥ss–j of the tincture, is spoken of by Dr. J. W. HOWE, of New York, as a stimulating aphrodisiac.

Sinapis. The special stimulant action of mustard is of decided power in atonic impotence. Mr. GAMGEE applies it to the spine over the origin of the genito-crural nerves. (Page 368.) Dr. SAUVAGES recommends that the penis and testicles be immersed for twenty minutes daily in a hot and strong infusion of mustard seed. He reports restoration, by this means, of genital power which had been forfeited for years by early excesses.

Strychnia. As a general nerve tonic, strychnia or nux vomica is indispensable in the treatment of impotence from neurasthenia. It is probable that it is the most generally efficacious agent for that purpose known to the profession; it acts, however, more through a general impression on the system than as an aphrodisiac.

Zinci Phosphidum. This preparation is highly lauded by HAMMOND and others. It may be given gr. $\frac{1}{6}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$, combined with gr. ss of nux vomica.

GENERAL EXTERNAL MEASURES.

Counter-irritation is a means of old renown in the treatment of impotence, and has at times been used to the serious detriment of the patient. Flagellation and urtication are spoken of by classical writers, and have always been known to the vulgar. Of the local stimulants which are most successful and free from danger, mustard, tincture of cantharides and turpentine, are the most

reliable. Frictions with horse-radish are also spoken of. Dr. GALL claimed excellent results from applying counter-irritants to the *cerebellum* rather than the lower spine, believing that by so doing he stimulated the nerve-centres which control the sexual faculties. The method deserves trial in appropriate cases.

Douches. The alternate use of hot and cold douches to the organs, perinæum and lower spine, each fifteen minutes at a time, has been praised as an effective revulsive in sexual debility. They may also be directed to the *cerebellum*.

Electricity has been fully considered above. (Page 365.)

Massage, especially the lighter forms, as described page 151, so as to excite a flow of blood to the pelvic muscles and organs, is esteemed in the Orient as an efficient means of repairing powers exhausted by habitual excesses.

MASTURBATION. (SELF-ABUSE, ONANISM.)

DR. A. JACOBI, M. D., OF NEW YORK.

The commencement of the habit in young children and even infants, must be carefully watched for. The treatment in these cases is indicated by the causes which lead to the habit. For excessive phimosis, circumcision; balanitis and balanoposthitis, cleanliness and astringents; stone and gravel, mostly alkaline salts, the majority being uric in the beginning; vesical catarrh, alkalies, tannin, cubeb, hyoscyamus, injections, according to circumstances; constipation, its appropriate treatment, dietetic, anti-rachitical, roborant, laxative (injections); worms, anthelmintics; the acquired nervous derangement, bromide of ammonium or potassium. Dr. ANSTIE administers the bromide of potassium rather in "fierce activity of mind and body" than in the effects of masturbation. *Lupulin* and *camphor* have proved very serviceable. Regulations as to feeding include the avoidance of all substances irritating to the bladder. Regular bathing, and constant occupation under careful supervision, are urgent requisites. The children must not be permitted to sit on the floor too long. When the symptoms of an attack exhibit themselves, take them up and occupy their body and mind. Force is often required. They must not remain in bed after waking up. Infibulation, as advised by CELSUS, might be replaced by an artificial sore on the surface of the penis. At all events, there are many cases which exert to the utmost, both the watchfulness of the attendants and the ingenuity of the medical adviser.

Important amongst the therapeutical indications are those referring to the general influences produced upon the whole nervous system by the constant irritation of a large number of peripheric nerves. The symptoms of irritation are soothed and relieved by the above-mentioned sedatives; those of masturbation, and exhaustion resulting therefrom, by a general roborant treatment and nerve tonics, amongst which Dr. JACOBI places *strychnia* foremost, *iron* and *arsenic* next. The affections in which they are principally indicated are neuroses, either of the nerve centres, such as epilepsy and chorea magna, or of a peripheric nerve, or a number of nerves, or nerve complexes. The form in which peripheric nerves are generally affected, is that of hyperæsthesia or neuralgia, terms which are not used as identical, because medical men have agreed to employ the latter where the sensations are changed for a longer term, or where a positive lesion can be detected in the nerve itself.

Strychnia is remarkable for speedily restoring the impaired nerve power, provided the doses are not too small, and the mode of administration the appropriate one. A child of five years ought not to take less than $\frac{1}{24}$ part of a grain in the course of a day, of either the sulphate or nitrate. Larger doses are frequently not only tolerated but required. The best mode of its administration, however, is not by the mouth, but subcutaneously. A single daily dose of a twentieth part of a grain of the sulphate of strychnia in water, will fully suffice. (*American Journal of Obstetrics*, June, 1876.)

SIR. JAMES PAGET.

In the mental treatment of masturbation, it is especially important that the groundless fears of the patient as to the terrible results of the habit be dispelled. Our author says:

"I believe you may teach positively that masturbation does neither more nor less harm than sexual intercourse practiced with the same frequency in the same conditions of general health and age and circumstances. Practiced frequently by the very young, that is at any time before or at the beginning of puberty, masturbation is very likely to produce exhaustion, effeminacy and over-sensitiveness and nervousness, just as equally-frequent copulation, at the same age, would probably produce them. Or, practiced every day, or many times in one day, at any age, either masturbation or copulation is likely to produce similar mischiefs, or greater. And the mischiefs are especially likely or

nearly sure to happen, and to be greatest, if the excesses are practiced by those who, by inheritance or circumstances, are liable to any nervous disease—to spinal irritation, epilepsy, insanity or any other. But the mischiefs are due to the quantity, not to the methods, of the excesses; and the quantity is to be estimated in relation to age and to the power of the nervous system. I have seen as numerous and as great evils consequent on excessive sexual intercourse as on excessive masturbation; but I have not seen or heard anything to make me believe that occasional masturbation has any other effects on one who practiced it than has occasional sexual intercourse, nor anything justifying the dread with which sexual hypochondriacs regard the having occasionally practiced it."

(These views of this very eminent surgeon, as to the comparative harmlessness of masturbation, are not adopted by many other very experienced observers. See under Impotence.)

DR. C. B. MILLER, OF INDIANA.

This writer gives the following directions (*American Practitioner*, May, 1877):

It is indispensable that the habit of solitude, and the inclination to indulge the imagination, be broken up, and some healthy, active employment substituted, and the victims compelled to mingle with others and go into society.

Plain, substantial food must be insisted upon, and oysters, eggs, chestnuts, wines, spices, etc., avoided. The patient should sleep on a hard mattress, lightly covered as the state of the atmosphere will admit, retire early, and rise immediately on awaking in the morning. The bowels must be carefully regulated, as the presence of scybala in the rectum frequently excites the propensity. Tonics should be given when indicated, astringent injections used to relieve leucorrhœa, or applications to the prostatic portions of the urethra, and any eruptions about the genitals appropriately treated and the utmost cleanliness enforced. Running sewing-machines, dancing and horse-back riding should be interdicted.

Aside from these general directions, moral treatment is about the only kind that promises success, though it may be aided by the administration of camphor, chloral, the bromides, belladonna and digitalis. From a pretty extensive experience with the remedy, he is inclined

to attach more importance to *digitalis*, as an anaphrodisiac, than to any other medicine.

DR. HENRY P. WENZEL, OF LOUISVILLE.

504. R. Tinturæ pulsatillæ (German), $f. \frac{7}{3}$ ij. M.
Aqua, $f. \frac{3}{3}$ iv.
A teaspoonful four times daily.

This herb, in the dose above given, is said by this writer to be superior to bromide of potassium. The pulsatilla lessens sexual excitement but does not diminish sexual power. He claims that, after using it a week, the onanist loses the desire of practicing the hurtful habit. (*Louisville Medical News*, March, 1877.)

OPERATIVE PROCEDURES.

Castration.—In certain very obstinate cases, castration, at the request of the patient, has been resorted to. It is a last resort which, however, is probably never necessary.

Clitoridectomy.—In the female, the removal of the clitoris strongly advocated and practiced some years ago by Mr. I. BAKER BROWN, of London, is undoubtedly occasionally a simple and efficient means to check the habit. When the practice threatens injury to the intellect, and has not yielded to ordinary medication and remonstrance, the organ should, according to this authority, be removed, the excision including the corpus cavernosum clitoridis, and the major portion of the erectores clitoridis. The profession, however, has not, as a body, accepted the propriety of this operation, partly because in some instances it has signally failed to break the habit, partly because, even if successful, its after consequences, in reference to the marital relations, might be most unpleasant. The simpler operation of infibulation would be positively efficacious, and leave no mutilation behind it.

Circumcision.—Where the prepuce is long and a source of irritation, circumcision should be performed without hesitation. It must not, however, be regarded as a preventive of or even a safeguard against the habit. Jews frequently masturbate.

Infibulation.—The most valuable of all operative preventives is infibulation. This was in common use in ancient Rome, both to prevent masturbation and coition. The best method is to pierce the prepuce, close to the extremity of the glans, with a sharp-pointed silver

wire, the ends of which should then be firmly fastened together, and the loop thus left in the part. It rarely causes any troublesome irritation. It may be practiced with equal success on girls, the *fibula* being made to penetrate the labia major.

Scarification.—A sore may be established on the prepuce or clitoris which will temporarily prevent handling the organ.

ORCHITIS (EPIDIDYMITIS.)

DRS. VAN BUREN AND KEYES, OF NEW YORK.

In mild cases, rest on the back with elevation of the testicle, aided by a light, hot flaxseed poultice and a laxative, are sufficient.

In severe cases, rest on the back and elevation of the testicle above the abdomen are indispensable. To effect this, apply a bandage around the waist, and fold a large handkerchief in the shape of a triangle; place the base of the triangle under the scrotum, tie one acute angle on each side to the waistband, and bringing the right angle over the testicles and penis, pin it to the waistband; sew a tape to that portion of the sling immediately under the scrotum, carry it between the nates and attach it to the waistband.

Having arranged this, put the patient to bed, and envelop the testicle from the start with a *tobacco poultice*.

505. R. Fine-cut tobacco, $\bar{3}i.$
Hot water, $f. \bar{3}x.$
Bring to a boil while stirring briskly, and add:
Powdered flaxseed, q. s.
To bring to the proper consistency.

Apply to the part as hot as can be borne, and cover with a piece of oiled silk. Renew every eight hours. Ordinarily, the testicle will be nearly painless in a few hours.

When the pain is exceptionally acute, and the cord is strangulated, ten to fifteen leeches above the groin, along the course of the cord, will often calm the pain as if by magic. When the pain is owing to the extreme distension of the tunica vaginalis with fluid, a puncture to let this out is followed by striking and immediate relief.

Strapping the testicle is difficult to perform in a proper manner, but deserves more favor than it has received at the hands of surgeons.

The hardness of the testicle, which is apt to remain ordinarily, disappears of itself in a few weeks. Its departure may be hastened by keeping the testicle constantly in a suspender covered by oiled silk, so as to keep up heat and moisture. Mild mercurial ointment sometimes hastens the absorption.

No internal medicine exerts much influence on the disease. Urethral injections should not be used, but other gonorrhœal treatment may be continued, if called for.

In syphilitic orchitis, a thorough anti-syphilitic treatment is demanded, including large doses of *iodide of potassium*.

DR. ROBERTS BARTHOLOW.

506. R. Ammonii muriat., $\bar{3}ij.$
Spir. vini rectific.,
Aque \bar{aa} $f. \bar{3}ij.$ M.
For a lotion.

Cloths moistened with this solution, frequently applied, form an excellent discutient application. When the acute symptoms have subsided, but the swelling of the testicle remains, it may be removed by painting with the dilute *tincture of iodine*, or by applying a solution of the *oleate of mercury*:

507. R. Hydrargyri oleati, $\bar{9}j-\bar{3}ij.$
Morphiæ sulphatis, $gr. viij.$
Acidi oleici, $f. \bar{3}j.$ M.
For local application with a brush.

MR. GEORGE COWELL, LONDON.

The scrotum over the inflamed gland is wet, and the solid nitrate of silver is equably applied over the whole testicle. A suspensory bandage and rest are enjoined. Pain disappears in from two to six hours, and in a few days the patient is well. Of course, such general treatment as is needed is ordered. (*Practitioner*, February, 1872.)

MR. H. G. KNAGGS, ENGLAND.

This gentleman, in the *British Medical Journal*, November, 1875, reports a method of treating orchitis which, he says, he has for many years found very effective. It consists in the more or less constant

