CONIUM IN THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE MANIA.

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(Congrided from page 193.)

Writ the view of determining the relative duration of cases of acute mania treated with conium and with other remedies, I have contrasted twelve cases from each category. As the result of that contrast, I find that twelve consecutive cases treated from the first with conium, admitted subsequent to Feb. 25th, 1871, and since discharged recovered, had an average duration, as measured by residence in the asylum, of 102 days; whereas twelve consecutive cases treated with other remedies, such as bromide of potassium, cannabis indica, chloral, and digitalis, admitted subsequent to October 1st, 1870, and since discharged recovered, had an average duration, as measured by residence in the asylum, of 150 days. This shows a balance of 48 days in favour of conium. It will be seen, from the cases reported below, that when conium was used, that period of convalescence can also be shortened. In some cases it might be thought that it was unnecessarily prolonged. So rapid and decisive were the beneficial results of its employment that they might prove transitory, and that, as is not seldom the case when recovery is sudden, a relapse might be looked for. Experience having now taught that this fear is groundless, a considerable curtailment of the term of medical supervision is the safer course. Indeed, with prompt recovery, as a rule, under the conium treatment, that it appears that the necessity of removal to an asylum may be obviated in some cases of acute mania if it is had recourse to, and judiciously conducted, in their initial stage. The acute effects of conium in acute mania are not limited to those cases in which a remedy is used from the outset of the disorder. Eight patients in this asylum in whom other methods of treatment had been first employed have derived marked advantage from the substitution of conium for other drugs.

To indicate the value of conium in acute mania more conclusively than can be done by general statements or numerical results, I have drawn up epitomes of some of the cases which have yielded the most striking numerical results. I have also support his conclusion, that the effect of conium is produced in an extraordinary degree. Some of it is absolutely inert.
tion fixed; takes her food. To have three drachms of succus conii thrice daily.—5th: Is more excited, very garrulous and wild; dancing, singing, and raving. Maniacal excitement; any noise increases her vehemence.—16th: Quiet, rational; medicine only twice a day. To omit the medicine.

CASE 8.—Fanny D—, aged thirty-five, married, housewife, from North Brierley, was admitted March 7th, 1871. His father died of paralysis; a paternal uncle and aunt were insane. A brother has preyed on her mind. A week ago she became suddenly excited, and has since been uninterruptedly noisy, loud, harsh voice, and will not remain in one place. She says that he is St. Paul. Is in fair bodily health; neck bears marks of recent blister.—March 18th: Convalescent.—July 23rd: Discharged recovered.—Weight: June, 126 lb.; July, 131 lb.

CASE 9.—Ann S—, aged forty-five, single, housewife, from Huddersfield, was admitted May 30th, 1871. Was insane for a short time three years ago. Has had six children; the youngest child is fifteen months old. The violent death of her eldest child has greatly depressed her. She has been discharged some time ago, but has been detained here for a short time. I ordered to leave off ergotine, and to take four drachms of succus conii every fourth hour.—16th: Still very maniacal; requires to be fed with the stomach-pump. The dose of succus conii to be increased to six drachms.—19th: Now takes her food voluntarily; is much quieter, but talks incoherently.—22nd: Quite rational; medicine only twice a day. To omit the medicine. —June 20th: Convalescent. —Sept. 4th: Discharged recovered.—Weight: May, 112 lb.; June, 126 lb.; July, 130 lb.; Aug., 133 lb.; Oct., 131 lb.; Nov., 135 lb.

Mr. H—, aged forty, called on me on May 9th. For the last five or six years he has had a running from his right ear, with occasionally slight bleeding. The discharge would from time to time cease for a week or so, and this cessation was always followed by increased distress in the head and a slight elevation of the blood-pressure, which disappeared as the ear resumed its discharge. Memory defective; difficult in concentrating his attention for long upon any subject; often asks questions, and, before he can be answered, will start another and quite different topic; stuggers in his walk, so that he has been thought to be in liquor when quite sober; feels very giddy, and has occasionally a feeling as if he was turning round; has had constant pain in the last eighteen months; extremities cold; can't take wine or spirits, as they "dry to the head." He had a fall from a horse some years ago, and in the summer of 1867 had a slight sunstroke. Has had a slight purulent oozing from a minute orifice at the back of his head; this never continues more than a minute or two. Has had a slight purulent oozing from a minute orifice at the back of his head; this never continues more than a minute or two. I put him on the iodide of potassium (five grains) and hyoscyamus.

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