existence of pyemia rather with ill-conditioned discharges; and every day's record, also, sets forth the amendment on the opening of confined collections, the use of drainage tubes, the cleansing of the parts, &c. &c. It may not be and often is not stated that the amendment was because of these events, but the coincidence occurs. Still more: the appended cases, noticed with peculiar reference to this matter, show that this amendment coincides (with a certainty that is remarkable, and a rapidity that is marvelous) with the injection into the infecting cavities of substances which, by strong coercion, arrest the putrefactive motion, destroy the products of putrefaction, and render putrescible substances non-putrescible.

5th. The constitutional condition alluded to hospital gangrene is a sequent state. The proof of this statement is abundant in the record of cases hereto appended. The reader's attention is invited to the constant subsidence of the general or constitutional disturbances upon the arrest of the gangrene, a subsidence constant, marked, and immediate—most emphatically pronounced in those cases where the bromine was used uniliterated, and carefully applied. The attention of the reader is called to the ameliorations corresponding with the amelioration of the gangrene, to the constant persistence of some general expression so long as any part of the surface was untouched or unchanged. No constant was the loss of appetite, debility, etc., to the lingering of the gangrenous process in limited portions of the surface, that the very hue and expression of the face betokened the fact, told the story to the observant surgeon. It is needless, for my present purpose, to multiply examples. I desire, here, merely to convince the reader that, in some diseases, the gravamen of the constitutional state, if not its totality, is plainly due to the absorption of the products of the local processes. I say, absorption; for it is not possible to conceive of any other process by which the whole organism could be involved to the extent noticed.

Now, if the proposition is proven in regard to the diseases in question, it may reasonably be asked if it is not also true of other disorders—if it is not, even, within certain bounds, a

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HOSPITAL GANGRENE, Erysipelas, &c. 45

law in medicine? I confess that my observations lead me to think it is one of broader significance and wider application than is generally believed. The matter, of course, needs a full investigation. I do not desire, in what is here written, so much to challenge belief as to invite investigation. If the projected law is a true one, the effect would not be to revolutionize but to simplify; to give precision to methods now vaguely used; to give definite views and purposes to remedial measures; to draw attention to the completeness in the effect of traditional remedies; to supplant surmise with faith, and indecision and doubt with confidence.

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CASES.

[The following cases are selected in order to show, amongst other things, the varying effects of the different modifications in the use of bromine, and to give the reader some idea of the general development of the clinical processes elsewhere recommended.]

William E. Nichols,* corporal company B, 34th Illinois, was admitted into Ward No. 1, Hospital No. 7, January 15th, 1863, having a flesh wound upon the inner aspect of the left leg, in its lower third. The wound was made by a minie ball, had its aperture of entrance separated from that of exit by a piece of integument about two inches in width. The wound was superficial. The edges had a confused and purple appearance. January 20th, well marked hospital gangrene made its appearance. The first application made was lint saturated with 1% chlor. soda. This application was continued for some days, with slight improvement in the cleanliness of the wound. The latter was covered with large, greyish, pulpy sloughs, and a

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* Nichols's case was the first one of hospital gangrene to which the bromine was applied.
scrophulous looking pus, emitting a foul odor; it is about five inches in length in its largest diameter. The tendons are to be plainly seen, as well as the internal saphena, exposed, indurated, filled with coagulated blood, and sloughing throughout the whole extent of the ulcer. The tibia and fibula are bare, the former for two and a-half inches. Constitutional symptoms are prostration, restlessness, sleeplessness, and loss of appetite. The local treatment has been, up to date February 19th, mar, tinct. ferr, charcoal, and cinchona poultices, tar water, and dilute nitric acid. Constitutional treatment has consisted of wine, quinine, egg-nog, and generous diet. This morning, on removing the dressings, an arterial jet followed, which was stopped by torsion. There seems now nothing left but amputation. Although the patient is willing to submit, the operation holds out but little hope, on account of the great prostration present.

Surgeon Goldsmith, U. 8. V., Medical Director, was called upon this morning, in order to obtain his consent to the operation. He ordered the treatment by bromine, to be commenced by injecting it into the wound in all its parts, particularly under the raised edges of the skin. In the meanwhile the sloughing had extended in the cellular tissue from the ankle nearly to the knee. The foot was hugely swollen. The wound is covered with thin, diffused, greyish, fetid sloughs of skin, cellular tissue, and muscle. A dirty yellowish fluid oozes from the cellular planes. The tibia is bare about three inches.

B—Bromine, gtt. xx.
Alcohol, 3j.
M.

To be applied every four hours, day and night.

February 21st. The wound looks cleaner this morning than has been seen for a long time. Sloughs not so adherent, ulcer is becoming more sensitive; continue treatment.

February 12th. The improvement in the wound is marked: patient feels better in every way; appetite and spirits better.
B—Bromine, gtt. x1.
Alcohol, 3j.
M. Apply as before.

February 13th. Whole ulcer presenting a healthy granulating surface; appetite and all constitutional symptoms very much improved. The bromine was now suspended on account of the pain. The wound has continued to granulate until, at the present date, March 7th, it is on a level with the surface. Patient is daily gaining in strength, and often speaks of the substance which he thinks saved his leg and life.

[Condensed from the report of Medical Cadet Larabee.]

Nelson Korson, private company B, 16th Wisconsin Volunteers, was admitted into Ward I, Hospital No. 7, Louisville, Ky., January 15th, 1863, at 9 A.M., having, in battle at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, received a flesh wound upon the inner aspect of the lower third of the right thigh—apatures of exit and entrance near together. The wound has a continued and purple appearance, as have the tissues for several inches around. General health good.

January 20th. Gangrene made its appearance February 17th. The wound is now four inches long, three inches wide, and one and a half inches deep. The topical applications have been warm water dressings, sol. acet. zinc, tr. ferri chlor., tr. arnica. Patient has had frequent chills, diminished appetite; has taken cathartics, quinine, Dover's powder, and generous diet. Large sloughs have been removed every day. The skin is undermined to the extent of two inches in every direction. Commenced to-day to inject the ulcer with tinct. of bromine, as in the case of Nichols, and in the meanwhile bromine vapor was applied in the usual manner.

February 18th. Morning visit. The sloughs are of a yellowish color and easily detached; wound is now sensitive, and shows more signs of vitality than have been seen before. Continue bromine. Bromine causes pain.