grasp the throat in terror; and *the perspiration in face* and on the neck, when thus *awakened,* led me to choose Sambucus."

Dr. Carr proposes, as place for next meeting, Rochester, on the third Thursday in December. Carried.

Dr. Schmitt moved that the next subject for discussion be "Sycosis," and that Dr. Kent, of St. Louis, be requested to prepare a paper on this subject for the next meeting. Adopted.

The meeting then adjourned at half-past four P. M.

JULIUS SCHMITT, *Secretary.*

WHAT IS THE MOST TRULY HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT FOR BURNS AND SCALDS?*

AD. LIPPE, M. D., PHILADELPHIA.

Every individual case will require its individual treatment according to the law of cure (*Similia similibus curantur*), and, therefore, many remedies, not mentioned in this short essay, may be indicated in some cases as the symptoms accompanying such injuries, as well as the causes which may indicate them. I can, therefore, only treat of such conditions following such injuries as we find most frequent in practice. And to illustrate the general treatment of scalds and burns in the most truly homœopathic manner, I shall first state the symptoms generally following the different degrees of combustion, and give the remedies that are indicated by such symptoms and have been confirmed by practice, and, secondly, state what remedies were more efficacious according to the causes.

Combustions are caused when our body comes in contact with fire, heated substances, mineral acids, alkalies, or some of the metallic salts and oxides. On the degree of heat, and, therefore, with fluids, on their density and thereby conditional capacity for heat, on the time they have been in contact, and on the tenderness of the parts with which they have been in contact, depends the degree of the ensuing inflammation. Thus may exist any number of degrees; but we will confine ourselves, as is usual, to *four.*

(1) The first degree of combustion is caused by steam, or from the contact of more or less hot substances; it produces a deep, not circumscribed, redness of the skin without swelling,

* The above excellent article was first published in the *Philadelphia Journal of Homœopathy* thirty-three years ago.—EDS.

which vanishes when pressed upon by the fingers. The skin peels off in a few days.

Treatment.—Among the known homœopathic remedies Ars., Bell., Euphorb., Hammamelis, Rhus, and Tereb. correspond with that condition of skin. I found Hammamelis the most efficacious remedy. The distilled preparation, externally applied, will reduce the pain immediately.

(2) The second degree, which is mostly caused by heated fluids, causes the epidermis to become either spontaneously or gradually elevated to a smaller or larger blister, filled with a yellow or transparent fluid. The redness and swelling of the skin are more intense than in the first degree, the pain severer—burning—and this condition is generally accompanied by fever. The vesicles shrink and dry up, the fluid becomes absorbed, and the epidermis is thrown off, or if they burst or are opened the fluid is emptied, the blister sinks in and dries up, a new epidermis is formed, or the place suppurates.

Treatment.—There is none of the known remedies to correspond closer to this condition than Cantharides, which, if early enough applied, will prevent the blisters from forming to any extent. Where they have formed the tincture of Cantharides, applied with a brush externally, will soon relieve the pain. But alcohol or brandy may be applied. Urtica urens, Creasote, and Causticum have to be next considered, should Cantharides not be sufficient. When it has come to the formation of ulcers, Ars., Carbo veg., Cycl., and Lachesis have to be considered.

(3) The third degree is caused by the flames of fire or by the longer contact of the body with hot substances, especially hot fluids. It is characterized by gray, yellowish, or brown spots, which are thin, soft, and when slightly touched painless, only painful when more severely pressed upon, at the same time blisters make their appearance (filled with a brownish or sanguinolent fluid), the adjoining parts are red and much swollen. In six or eight days, sometimes later, the epidermis and the malpighian net are thrown off, and it heals by granulation. There is a white, bright scar left.

Treatment.—This irritation corresponds with the symptoms of Ars., Canth., Cycl., Creasote. Creasote water will very generally soon allay the violent pain. It can be applied with a brush, and linen cloths dipped in weak Creasote water can be applied to the burned parts. I found this an admirable remedy. Caustic solution has been used in the same manner successfully.

(4) The fourth degree is caused by a long contact with fire, red hot or melted metals, boiling fluids, etc. The destruction

involves the whole thickness of the skin and the cellular texture, or goes deeper into or through the muscles to the bones, or a whole part is destroyed and burned to coal. The scurfs formed are of different thickness, and insensible when caused by hot fluids; gray or yellow when caused by fire or dry hot substances; brown or black, dry, hard, sounding when touched. In the circumference of these scabs the skin is drawn into radiating folds. The adjoining parts are much swollen and reddened, very painful, and often covered with blisters. Around the scabs suppuration ensues which causes the scurf to be thrown off, and then a more or less deep ulcer is formed. Granulation sets in, the edges unite and form ill-shaped, hard, immovable scars, frequently changing or even sometimes suspending the motions of the parts.

Treatment.—The best remedy in such cases is soap—a paste made out of the scrapings of good Castile soap and spread on linen, with which the burned surface is covered. It is necessary to renew this dressing from time to time. If the ulcers become putrid and offensive, and Sapo. given internally does not relieve, the dressing must be changed, and Creasote will then be in place externally. If the pain in the ulcers is burning, Ars., internally, or, when they bleed at the same time, Carbo veg., will be the best remedy. Sec. cor., Caust., Cycl., Laches., if the ulcers become gangrenous. Such cases, after treatment with lead water, have yielded in my hands to the application of soap; the remedy being administered at the same time internally.

When the burn is caused by sulphuric or other acids, Lime-water is the best remedy.

If caused by an alkali, Vinegar is best.

If caused by burning fluid, as is used in lamps, a paste of Chloride of Lime and Oil, or an aqueous solution of Chlor. lime alone, is best.

Gunpowder burns, which generally affect the face and hands, I have best treated with a very weak solution of Creasote.

If it is caused by phosphorus, Sweet Oil is the best remedy.

If fever, diarrhœa, constipation, or other symptoms make their appearance, they must be treated according to symptoms. In many cases it is better to apply externally only a little mutton suet, and give the remedies internally, except when they had been treated injudiciously before.

The People's Health Journal, of Chicago, says: "Invalids who have tried everything but Homœopathy, have made less than half an effort to get well."