

Providence R.I.

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Aug. 4 - 1866.

Wm Lloyd Garrison Esq:

Dear Sir,

After seeing you yesterday at the cars I regretted that I had not mentioned to you an expedient which I have lately used with a good deal of success for the relief of paronychia of neuralgia. It is the tincture of chloroform (one part of chloroform to ~~three~~<sup>four</sup> parts of strong alcohol,) used as a rubefacient. The effect in this case is only slightly due, perhaps, to the anaesthetic

property of chloroform, <sup>and</sup> but  
principally to its counter-irritant  
action. It differs widely in  
its effect from the common  
chloroform liniment made  
with oil, & is the most elegant  
counter-irritant preparation  
that I have ever found.

I cut a piece of flannel  
the size & shape of the region  
on which I wish to act, wet  
it with the tincture of chloro-  
form as above, apply it to  
the surface & cover it with  
several thicknesses of a folded  
towel. Usually the burning  
sensation is so great in three  
minutes that it is ~~rather~~ in-  
convenient to continue it longer.  
I have <sup>(never)</sup> known the above  
application, however, to blister <sup>- even</sup>  
if allowed to remain ~~as long~~

until the flannel (a single thickness) has become dry. With a double thickness of flannel or a <sup>stricter</sup> tincture, made of one part chloroform & three of alcohol, more caution might be requisite.

But the whole effect is usually obtained in three minutes; & this effect, in repeated instances, has been to remove a paroxysm of neuralgic pain, so as to permit sleep which was before impossible.

I do not know that your case is one which will yield to this simple treatment; yet I see no reason why it should not. For application to your neck, shoulder & arm, I should cut a piece of flannel, about 3 inches X 9 inches, wet it with the tincture & apply it along the seat of pain from the shoulder down the arm, <sup>(covering with the towel.</sup> After

it has been held there three  
minutes more or less, according  
to the sensation, take the flannel  
off, wet it again, & apply it from  
the shoulder upward & backward  
across the neck to the top of the  
spine. From these two applica-  
tions occupying hardly  
more than six minutes I  
should hope for a night's sleep  
for you. (The application can be  
repeated on the same spot  
within a very few hours.)  
The flannel & towel,  
after being used <sup>once,</sup> are already  
to be used again. There is no  
soiling as in the case of a mus-  
tard poultice & the trouble is  
reduced to a minimum.

I do not mean by recom-  
mending this special application  
to detract in the least from  
<sup>what I said of</sup> the permanent efficiency of  
the "camphor-arnica liniment"  
~~which I recommended.~~  
Yours truly  
(Dr.) Wm. F. Channing