

chloride. Dr. Toulouse then gives a diet which he has found both acceptable and well borne; it consists of milk, 1 litre; potatoes, 300 grms.; eggs, 2; coffee, 10 grms.; beef, 300 grms.; flour, 200 grms.; sugar, 50 grms.; butter, 40 grms. This fare contains about 2.2 grms. of chloride of sodium. His theory is that upon this diet, *minimal* as to salt, the cells of the tissues acquire, so to speak, an appetite for or readiness to absorb salt if presented, and that if sodium bromide be presented instead of sodium chloride the appetite will be to some extent satisfied by this kindred salt; in other words, he first starves the cell as to sodium chloride, and then supplies sodium bromide. The theory is a plausible one, and the results of the treatment of twenty cases are sufficiently striking to make further investigation very desirable. So far as they go his cases seem to show that on the above special diet patients become more susceptible to the action of bromides.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

*Curability of Epilepsy, and How it may be accomplished. (Medicine, Feb., 1900.) Spratling, W. P.*

The writer sums up under eleven heads—the practice in vogue at the Craig Colony. In essence it amounts to a careful hygiene, abstinence from alcohol, and a common-sense avoidance of anything in diet or occupation which puts a strain upon the patient. Eleven heads were scarcely required to evolve this wisdom.

Due observance of the above principles and a “sufficient time” will, as Dr. Spratling has learned by experience, cure from 6 to 8 per cent. of all cases. What the “sufficient time” is we are not told, but do such results warrant the title of the paper, and is it on the grounds of this success that the bromides have been rejected for the last three years at Craig Colony?

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

*On the Action of some Morphine Derivatives [Ueber die Wirkung einiger Morphinderivate und ihre therapeutischen Indicationen]. (Monats. f. Psychiat. u. Neur., B. vii, H. 1, 1900.) Winternitz, H.*

Reference is made to peronin (benzyl morphine), dionin (ethyl morphine), and heroin (diacetyl morphine), and these are contrasted with codeine (methyl morphine). Peronin and dionin resemble codein in not depressing respiratory activity whilst lessening the irritability of the respiratory tract; at the same time they exert a mild narcotic action. Peronin has no probable future before it because, without being more active, it is less soluble than dionin, and is of more unpleasant taste. Dionin is stated to be slightly more active than codeine, and more persistent in its effect.

Heroin resembles morphine but is much more toxic, and it is doubtful whether it possesses any real advantages over morphine.

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