often noted, that our boasted science, while it teaches us to work intelligently and with a skilful adaptation of varying means to diverse ends, is yet on many occasions a tardy guide in comparison with popular observation.

If, as an English writer has remarked, the spirit of the Royal Humane Society's directions for resuscitation can be summed up in the one word *Warmth*, this proposition may be expressed as simply to advance another step, having the monosyllable *Heat* for its exponent; and I hope that some of the many readers of this journal who have more abundant opportunities for such experiments, will investigate and report the practical value contained in the suggestion of artificially heating the blood (not warming it merely, as has been heretofore advised) within the limbs of persons apparently dead, and then propelling it as rapidly as possible towards the heart, the pulsations of which are probably, in some instances at least, so weak and infrequent as to escape observation for minutes before they finally cease. The method seems to promise somewhat not only in the cases of still-born infants, but also in those of patients asphyxiated by drowning, hanging, or the inhalation of noxious gases, especially the vapour of chloroform, and it possesses the great advantage that its essentials are almost always readily accessible.

ANT. VII.—*The Permanganate of Potash in the Treatment of Carbuncle.* By THAD. L. LEAVITT, M. D., of Germontown, Pa.

THE beneficial effects accruing from the local use of the permanganate of potash in the treatment of sloughing ulcers, phlegmuous erysipelas, and hospital gangrene, having been most thoroughly tested and proved during the last year of the war, in army hospital life, it occurred to me that its peculiar remedial qualities would alike prove successful in that most painful and distressing lesion, carbuncle, originating as it also does, from a depressed vitality, and a morbid condition of the blood. The most satisfactory and encouraging results have been obtained in the only cases in which I have had an opportunity to employ it.

Mrs. R——, æt. about 60 years, was visited, during the absence from town of her family physician, and found suffering terribly from a carbuncle located upon the left shoulder-blade, just above the spine of the scapula, and occupying the supra-scapular fossa. Loss of sleep, constant pain, and a naturally nervous temperament combined, induced a mental disturbance almost amounting to delirium. The tumor was in its sixth day, with all the general accompaniments, of the size of a hen's egg, tumid, tense and shining. A free cruciate incision had been made two days before, but with no relief; dense areolar tissue, puffy granulations, and sanious oozings crowded the track of the knife, with no appearance of separation or healthy action. The pulse was quick and compressible, 110 beats in the minute;

countenance anxious and expressive of great pain. Bowels regular. A strong solution of the permanganate of potash (3ss to f̄j) was immediately applied with a brush, and a dressing saturated with it covered with oiled silk placed upon the shoulder. Anodynes, beef-tea, milk punch, tincture of the chloride of iron and quinia were administered. The same evening the patient was again seen and expressed herself as feeling much relieved; pulse 98, and gaining in volume and elasticity. The next morning the dressing was removed, and already, although but twenty-five hours had elapsed, true pus had begun to form, the intense pain had subsided, and the patient, to use her own language, declared it "a miracle;" the pain had vanished, the fever was gone; she had slept well and felt some appetite for food. A few days longer the potash was continued; the slough separated, and the wound healed in the short space of one week.

Mr. C—, æt. 50 years, shoemaker; was visited July 30th, 1866. Had been sick three days, was found suffering intensely from a carbuncle situated upon the abdomen just below the umbilicus, of the size of a large walnut, and involving the surrounding structures in an erysipelatous inflammation. Bowels constipated; high fever; pulse 120; heavy breath; tongue furred; anxious countenance; great restlessness and general uneasiness characterized his principal symptoms. Hop and laudanum poultices had been applied, but he had been gradually growing worse, and approaching the condition described, the tumor increasing daily, the parts becoming more dense, and at last an ichorous pus exuded from several small openings. Mild purgation, after which supporting and stimulant treatment was instituted. A slight incision was made, and the permanganate applied, as in the previous case, the dressings being removed once in twenty-four hours. This case was seen seven days successively; the 13th of August he returned to his work, the severity of the suffering having been arrested after the first application.

Mrs. A—, æt. about 49 years, having suffered a few days from a supposed furuncle, and the pain becoming intolerable, called in medical aid. There was found upon the inner face of the left thigh, just below the nates, a well-marked, though small carbuncle; a very slight incision was made and the potash dressing used. No constitutional treatment at all was inaugurated; in three days all signs of carbuncle had disappeared, and the line of incision was healing nicely.

The results in this case were mutually gratifying from the fact that about six years ago the patient suffered from a series of carbuncles appearing in succession along the spinal column, from the back of the neck to the region of the lumbar vertebræ, and lasting all through the winter months, her dread and fear of similar suffering were very great. The permanganate of potash has been eminently successful with me in the treatment of chronic ulcers. The following case of many years' duration, and which had resisted all efforts, yielded to the remedial properties of this preparation.

Arthur M—, tavernkeeper, æt. 45 years, had a chronic indurated ulcer of sixteen years' standing, extending over the superior face of the right leg about four inches below the tubercle of the tibia, and spreading backward on both sides to the malleoli, covering a surface of about twenty-eight square inches, deep and burrowing in some localities, and in others merely

superficial; the whole leg and foot were much swollen and unresisting, the toes merely protruding from a shapeless mass of flesh closely resembling the foot of a young elephant. An ichorous discharge of a horribly offensive character, together with filthy dressings, augmented the destruction of the surrounding parts.

The advice of an eminent surgeon had been secured a few weeks previously, to the effect that but one alternative remained, amputation; and indeed all appearances favoured such a decision. Proper abstinence, tincture of iron and good diet were directed. The local use of a strong solution of the permanganate of potash and judicious bandaging have already done so much for this case that, at the date of writing, the tenth application of the potash, six square inches, will more than cover the small amount of ulceration remaining, so rapid have been the healing process and the formation of firm healthy tissue; and, in a few days more, we can confidently prognosticate a complete cure.

ART. VIII.—*Bromide of Potassium in Epilepsy.*

By HORACE Y. EVANS, M. D.

It is a matter of surprise that the bromides of potassium and ammonium have not come into more general use in the profession.

Dr. Hammond's little book awakened some of us to a realization of the fact that insomnia could be successfully treated without the use of opium; and further, that in many cases of wakefulness it was positively contra-indicated; yet how very few think of using the bromide of potassium in this affection.

Sir Charles Loebeck made public, years ago, his successful use of this remedy in hysteria; yet the old and offensive drugs are to this day used nine times where the more agreeable and effectual bromides are used once.

Delirium tremens can be throttled at its very outstart by this medicine, yet how rarely does a case in private practice escape the routine of opium, alcohol, blisters, digitalis, lupulin, and capsicum. In no disease have their beneficent effects been more marked than in epilepsy.

I propose, therefore, relating the three following cases of this disease out of eight within my knowledge, treated with the bromides.

CASE I. Farmer, æt. 30, living in a miasmatic region. Enjoyed perfect health until attacked with ague; was treated with quinia, and the chills checked. Then followed convulsions, which at first resembled, as far as the pulse was concerned, apoplexy, but soon became clearly epileptic. The attacks returned at irregular intervals of from seven to ten days. He had been carefully treated with remedies such as the symptoms from time to time indicated. When he came under my care he was using tonics and alteratives, and ice-bag to the spine. His pulse was 98, full and strong, tongue furred, bowels sluggish, disgust for food, very restless, severe head-