

tions, which cascara sagrada kept fairly free. Every effort was made to get him to empty his bladder naturally by propping him up against the wall and otherwise, but it was generally a failure. During this period priapism was very marked, but there were never any seminal emissions, and his hands had to be tied to the bedstead to prevent his practising onanism—a habit to which he had never been addicted. He remained in this condition till two months after the onset; then he began, while half awake and half asleep, to talk as if in a dream, sometimes saying things which were ridiculous, and occasionally asking how long he had been ill. He also showed evidence of an emotional tendency unusual to him. His weight, which previously had been gradually decreasing, began now slowly to return to the normal condition, and he was allowed to sit up for an hour or two daily. The sense of taste, which was apparently quite absent previously, also gradually returned, but it was not entirely restored for some time.

For several months after the mental faculties were completely restored the patient had considerable difficulty in walking, on account of incöordination and a tendency to fall to one side. Recovery was ultimately complete.

The author says that only eighteen other cases of such protracted sleep are on record, and of these four died in the sleep. Weir Mitchell has given an epitome of these eighteen cases in the *Transactions of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia*, Vol. III, and more information on the subject will be found in Gould and Pyle's "Anomalies and Curiosities of Medicine."

PATRICK.

THERAPY.

141. VERSUCHE ÜBER COCAINISIRUNG DES RÜCKENMARKES (Cocainization of the Spinal Cord). Bier (*Deutsche Zeitschr. für Chirurgie*, April, 1899).

The author reports the results of some remarkable experiments that he has been making to test the feasibility of rendering large areas of the body anesthetic by cocainization of the spinal cord. The method employed was to throw minute quantities of the drug into the subdural space after the manner of Quincke's lumbar puncture. By the use in this way of 0.005-0.01 gm. of cocaine he was enabled to perform painlessly such operations as resection of knee and ankle-joints, necrotomy of the tibia, resection of the ischium, resection in a case of complicated fracture of the femur, and treatment of an osteomyelitis femoris. As drawbacks to the procedure there were manifested in several cases disquieting symptoms, such as severe headache, nausea and vomiting, which lasted for several days. In order to estimate the intensity of these more exactly the author tried the injection both on himself and his colleague Hildebrand, finding that anesthesia of the whole of the lower extremities set in after an interval of from 5 to 8 minutes. A dose of 0.005 gm. maintained this state for about 45 minutes, then sensibility slowly returned. The after-effects were marked on both experimenters. Bier was even obliged to remain in bed for several days. Before making further trials on the human subject the author intends to investigate more fully the effects on animals.

JELLIFFE.

142. HYDATID OF THE BRAIN—OPERATION—RECOVERY (Vance, *Australasian Medical Gazette*, Feb. 21, 1898).

A man of thirty-six was admitted to hospital with right hemiparesis and aphasia, the trouble having begun six months previously with twitchings of the tongue and arm, gradually followed by the other