self-introspection is a characteristic feature. He insists upon radical treatment of the usual bowel complications. Proper elimination of the intestinal contents reduces or prevents further auto-intoxication. At the same time internal antiseptics should be employed. Nourishing diet and sleep must be maintained. With the views expressed Ret. is entirely in accord. Notably the feature of auto-intoxication should be kept in mind. This is nearly always present and demands careful attention.

STERNE.

PATHOGENY AND THE TREATMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SPASM.

M. Vigouroux presented to the Academie de Médecine (La Médecine Moderne, Nov. 4, 1896) his views upon this neurosis, which he believed to be always caused by changes in the nerves and muscles, the pathologic sequence being as follows: a general disorder, dyscrasic, infectious or toxic, determining first an exaggeration of reflex excitability in muscles, nerves and sensorial tissues. The lesions, in the next place, produce functional disorder directly by diminishing the blood supply, and secondly the sensibility of power of the muscles, by provoking a reflex spasm. He makes a general division of these functional palsies according to the seat of the peripheral lesion in each, and considers that the lithemic tendency is the most frequent general cause.

MITCHELL.

PARALDEHYDE. (Squibbs Ephemeris, Jan., 1897.)

It is a wonderfully innocuous drug, and where large doses are needed it can be well tolerated. It is an exceedingly efficient calmative and hypnotic. To illustrate these points the following cases may be cited: Case I.—A female, aged 81, melancholic, with suicidal tendency was treated with paraldehyde after numerous other sedatives had been tried with even injurious effects. This patient for several months took more than 1 ounce (once 4 ounces) in the twenty-four hours. The medicament not only gave great relief but proved a most suitable exhibit, for the patient recovered and remained well for three years. Case II., a female, aged 19, had been epileptic from childhood. The fits had lately become more frequent, often occurring two or three times a week. One peculiarity about the case was the prolonged aura. When the fit was to happen she felt upon awaking in the morning very ill, but could not describe any special sensations. Towards mid-day or in the afternoon the general convulsions seized her. The question of warding off the fits forced itself upon attention, seeing that so long an interval of warning was given. The idea of producing sleep then suggested itself, but how to avoid the danger of sedatives presented itself as a most serious difficulty. The favorable experiences of paraldehyde made one hope the obstacle could be avoided, and the result was most surprising. After the first dose of 15 minims she was sound asleep in five minutes and awoke refreshed with all disturbance gone. She has still the threatenings, but they are not so frequent, and has on several occasions had intervals of one month. For more than a year she has had no fit, except once when no paraldehyde was obtainable. She never requires over thirty minims (Dr. W. D. Aitken). A disagreeable feature of the drug is that it scents the breath strongly for about twenty-four hours. A point in dispensing is that the addition of a few drops of alcohol renders it perfectly miscible with water; any flavoring tincture can be used for this purpose (Dr. W. Mackie).

FREEMAN.