d.—THERAPEUTICS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

THE DOSIMETRIC EMPLOYMENT OF CHLOROFORM IN PRODUCING ANÆSTHESIA.—M. Paul Bert presented to the Société de Biologie (*Comptes Rendus*) the method employed by Dr. Pezraud, which consists in placing a very fine small compress over the nose and mouth of the patient, and dropping upon it with each respiration one drop of chloroform; at the end of a few minutes, if insensibility does not follow, two drops are given, and by this method complete insensibility is produced at the end of seven to ten minutes. During this time the pulse and respiration remain regular, and anæsthesia obtains in a progressive manner, with only the slowing of the pulse to indicate it; there is no agitation and no hyperæsthesia, even with alcoholics or nervous women. When anæsthesia has been produced, it is maintained by three or four drops of the chloroform every minute. By calculation, it takes in this way a mixture of ten to fourteen grammes of chloroform with 100 litres of air to produce the anæsthesia.

THE MEDULLA AND SEXUAL DISORDERS.—In spinal and sexual neurasthenia, Dr. Alexander Harkin says that the centres ought to be treated, not the periphery. The chief centre, as regards the sexual function, lies, he thinks, in the medulla. He applies wet cups, therefore, to the nape of the neck, and reports remarkable cures.

Dr. Harkin has also reported remarkable success with blisters over the heart in acute rheumatism, but his experience was not corroborated by that of others.—*The Practitioner*, Feb., 1884.

HYDROBROMIC ACID IN EPILEPSY.—Dr. H. C. Wood gives the results of the employment of hydrobromic acid in twelve old-standing cases of epilepsy. He gives the following comparative table :

Medicine, Daily Dose.	Number of Days.	Number of Fits.	Average number of fits occurring in the 12 patients conjointly, per day.
Bromide of sodium, 75 grains . . .	33	227 (or 95)	6.9 (or 2.9)
No medicine	15	241	16.1
Acidum hydrobromicum dilutum, f ʒ iss	23	81	3.5
Ibid., f ʒ ij f ʒ ij	6	12	2.0
Ibid., f ʒ iij	43	79	1.8
Bromide of potassium, 90 grains . .	62	132	2.2

It will be seen that the effect of the acid in reducing the number of fits was directly proportionate to the dose, and was very pronounced. When three fluid ounces were given daily, the number of fits was reduced to about one tenth of those which occurred when no remedy was administered : whether the greater number

of fits which happened during the three days of epileptic status is deducted or not from the roll of the sodium bromide, the effect of the acid was much greater than that of the seventy-five grains of the salt.—*Medical News*, Feb. 23, 1884.

The reporter has used hydrobromic acid in epilepsy for three years, and finds it occasionally the most efficient form. It is not easy to get private patients to take more than an ounce daily.

Like the other bromides, it sometimes fails entirely to affect the course of the disease.

CONGESTIVE HEADACHE—Nickel.—After a number of experiments, Dr. J. M. DaCosta decides that the bromide of nickel is much more effective in the congestive form of headache than any other preparation of bromine. Its dose is from five to seven grains.—*Analectic*, Feb., 1884.

CIMICIFUGA IN EPILEPTIFORM NIGHTMARE.—Dr. Ed. M. Small, of Eastport, Maine, sends the report of a case of epileptiform nightmare. It was cured by half-teaspoonful doses of powdered *cimicifuga racemosa* administered at bedtime. The paroxysms at once ceased, and there had been no return in a lengthy period of observation. The patient also was ordered to partake of only a light supper each night.—*Phila. Times*.

CHOREA—HYOSCYAMINE.—A case of chorea, which resisted all other remedies, was shown recently at the medical clinic of Prof. DaCosta, cured by hyoscyamine. The drug was given *ter die*, in doses sufficient to produce very slight characteristic effects, beginning with gr. $\frac{1}{200}$.—*Canada Lancet—Analectic*, Feb., 1884.

NERVE-STRETCHING FOR THE RELIEF OF PAIN.—Mr. John Marshall, who delivered the Bradshawe lecture Dec. 6th, took for his subject that of nerve-stretching. His lecture was an able summary of existing knowledge upon the subject. He showed the therapeutic value of the process by tables of 252 cases. On the subject of subcutaneous nerve-stretching he states that the use of Sayres' apparatus for suspending the body, and the consequent elongation of the body from an inch to two inches and a quarter, led Motschutkowski to experiment. He found the spine elongated to seven-eighths of an inch, but although the membranes moved, he was not sure of more than a slight degree of tension on the posterior nerves. He applied this method to fifteen cases of locomotor ataxy, for ten minutes at a time three times a week, and succeeded in thirteen cases in relieving the pains and abnormal sensations.

DUJARDIN-BEAUMETZ ON THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC

ALCOHOLISM BY STRYCHNIA.—The *Bull. génér. de thérap.* for January 15th gives the views of the author on this subject. He thinks with Luton of Rheims that the sulphate of strychnia can be given with great benefit in all cases of delirium tremens, and other nervous symptoms produced by alcoholism. He recommends the hypodermic injection of five milligrammes of sulphate of strychnia, repeated if necessary after five hours. Luton has emitted the opinion that strychnia could prevent the bad effects of chronic alcoholism, and that a small quantity of it might advantageously be added to alcoholic drinks. Dujardin-Beaumetz, however, refutes that opinion, and says that strychnia does not prevent the visceral lesions of chronic alcoholism.—*Lond. Med. Record.*

APOMORPHINE IN THE TREATMENT OF HYSTERO-EPILEPSY.—In a recent number of the *Medical Times and Gazette*, T. Hammond Williams, L. R. C. P., gives notes of two cases of hystero-epilepsy in which he made use of apomorphine. Mental perturbation, he states, was marked in both cases. In one of them, he thinks, it was evidently the result of the uterine function being in abeyance. In the same case the vaso-motor system also seemed to be at fault, for, on pricking the skin, no blood appeared from the cutaneous arterioles and capillaries. Ovarian compression and the use of hydrate of chloral having proved of no avail, hypodermic injections of apomorphine were employed, one fifteenth of a grain at each injection. The first two injections failed to provoke vomiting, their action being retarded, the author thinks, by the fact that the patient was still under the influence of chloral. Finally emesis took place, followed by prostration, drowsiness, and sleep. "The drug," says the author, "no doubt produced the emesis by being carried into the circulation to the great nervous centre in the medulla oblongata, where, by its action, it excited vomiting, besides causing nausea and depression of the circulatory system, and diminishing the muscular and nervous power. It therefore acts as a direct emetic upon the so-called vomiting centre."—*N. Y. Medical Journal*, Dec. 29, 1883.

THE CURABILITY OF LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA.—The opinion has recently been expressed by Dr. Debove that the sclerotic lesions existing in the spinal cord at the time when the lancinating pains are experienced—that is to say, at the beginning of locomotor ataxia, preclude any hopes of curing this affection. In opposition to these views Dr. Desnos affirms that there are cases in which the lesions existing in the posterior columns of the cord are curable. He relates a case of syphilitic tabes in which the pains were very severe and the inco-ordination marked, which was cured, at least all the symptoms were made to disappear, in five weeks by iodide and bromide of potassium with the proto-iodide of

mercury. Dr. Cadiat has reported a case of undoubted locomotor ataxia in which the autopsy showed a simple congestion of the cord without sclerosis, and Dr. Desnos regards his case as one of that kind.—*Annales de dermatologie et de syphiligraphie*, November 25, 1883—*Medical Record*.

THE TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY IN CHILDREN.—Dr. William Pepper, of Philadelphia, has recently delivered a series of clinical lectures upon the treatment of epilepsy in children, which have been published in the Phila. *Medical and Surgical Reporter*. The main points which he insisted upon were : the necessity of attention to diet and general hygiene, regular habits, the removal of every possible exciting cause, and the employment of rest and sleep. Sometimes the children should be put to bed during part of the day.

BROMOFORM, A NEW ANÆSTHETIC AND ANODYNE.—At a meeting of the Society of Physicians of Vienna Dr. Caj. Freiherr v. Horroch reported the results of some experiments with bromoform.

This bromoform was discovered by Löwig in 1832. It is prepared from the hydrate of bromal, by the addition of an alkali. It is an oily, colorless liquid with a pungent ethereal aromatic odor and a sweetish taste. It boils at 151° C., is soluble in warm water and ether.

The physiological action of bromal was first tested by Dr. S. Steinauer (*Virchow's Archiv*, May 19, 1870), who found that it relieved pain and produced sleep. He attributed the action in part to the formation of bromoform. The action of bromoform itself was tested by Dr. Horroch (*Allgemeiner medicin. Zeit.*, No. 3, 1884) in three series of experiments : first, by inhalation ; second, by hypodermic injection ; third, by giving it by the mouth.

In the inhalation experiments it was found that narcosis was easily produced in animals ; the anæsthesia being complete, and the excitation stage short and of a mild form. After recovering from the anæsthesia the animals did not vomit and appeared well.

Hypodermic injections of one gramme of bromoform produced in large animals complete narcosis, lasting for an hour. During this time the temperature fell from 2° to 4° C.

The internal administration of bromoform in doses of one to one and one-half grammes produced sleep of several hours' duration.

The animals experimented upon were rabbits and cats, and the physiological effects upon these animals may be summed up as follows : The respiration is not notably affected. The pulse continues strong, regular, and of ordinary frequency. The peripheral ends of the vagus retain their irritability. The blood-pressure is diminished. Reflex excitability is entirely abolished and irritation of the sciatic nerve failed to effect any changes in

blood-pressure. In very profound narcosis the cortical brain-centres lost their irritability. The temperature of the animals sank in dogs 3.5° C., in rabbits about 4.5° C.

As to the value of bromoform as an anæsthetic in surgery, four experiments had been made upon adults in Professor Albert's clinic. Three men had been successfully anæsthetized. In these cases the excitation period had been short, the patients did not cry or struggle. The stomach was not disturbed. Children had been easily anæsthetized.

On the other hand, bromoform, as an anæsthetic, appeared to be milder than chloroform, and its vapors were somewhat irritating to the respiratory passages.—*Medical Record*, Feb. 16, 1884.

THE TREATMENT OF WRITER'S CRAMP BY MASSAGE AND GYMNASTICS.—Mr. J. Wolff, gives an account of his method of treating cramp and allied affections, by massage and gymnastics. This method is now quite well known and has been endorsed by a number of prominent physicians.—*Medical Record*, Feb. 23, 1884.

JAMAICA DOGWOOD IN THE TREATMENT OF HYSTERIA.—Dr. F. C. Herr, of Philadelphia, Pa., says that he has treated six cases of pronounced hysteria with fluid extract of Jamaica dogwood, "with entire satisfaction." He gives drachm doses of the fluid extract thrice daily, and keeps it up for a long time.—*Therapeutic Gazette*, Nov., 1883.

A SIMPLE OPERATION FOR FACIAL NEURALGIA.—As described by Dr. J. F. Heustis, of Alabama, this consists in cutting down upon the infra-orbital foramen and drilling out the nerve as far back as the spheno-maxillary fissure with a fine steel drill such as dentists use. His patient was cured.—*Medical News*, Dec. 8, 1883.

MENTHOL AS AN ANODYNE.—At the January meeting of the New York Neurological Society, Dr. E. C. Wendt made some remarks upon the menthol cone as an anodyne. He had found it useful in headaches, the milder forms of neuralgia, and rheumatic pains.

Dr. D. Camman adds (*Medical Record*, Feb 23, 1884) that he has found it useful in toothache.

METHOD OF HASTENING THE ANÆSTHETIC ACTION OF THE ETHER SPRAY.—The ether spray is employed frequently at the Hôpital St. Louis in Paris for the production of local anæsthesia. A little device, first indicated by Dr. Letamendi, of Barcelona, but not hitherto utilized in practice, is employed by Dr. Vidal to shorten the duration of the process of congelation. It consists in making a slight prick with a needle at the point upon which the

spray is directed, at the moment when the skin assumes a purplish hue, and when the ether, commencing to solidify, assumes an oily consistency. The little puncture made at this time excites a reflex constrictive action of the vaso-motor nerves, the blood is driven from the part, and the skin becomes white. Another method of hastening the process consists in placing little wads of lint about the part, thus increasing the surface of evaporation.—*Practitioner*, Dec., 1883—*Medical News*.

OLEATE OF ACONITIA AS A LOCAL ANODYNE.—Dr. Howard A. Kelly reports a case of thoracic aneurism where the pain was promptly relieved by rubbing a few drops of the two-per-cent. solution of oleate of aconitia over the affected part. He also refers to cases of trigeminal neuralgia in the practice of Dr Geo. E. de Schweinitz where the same remedy was successful.—*Medical News*, Dec. 29, 1883.

NITRITE OF SODIUM.—Dr. Sydney Ringer writes to the *Lancet* to say that the dose of nitrite of sodium should be small, two or three grains, and not *twenty*, as stated in his "Handbook of Therapeutics." It has been ascertained that, in the cases in which twenty-grain doses were prescribed by Dr. W. T. Law, a year and a half ago, the specimen of the salt employed was very impure, containing a large percentage of the *nitrate*.

The reporter has observed unpleasant symptoms from five-grain doses given to a girl aged seventeen.

THE SYMPTOMATIC TREATMENT OF PARALYSIS AGITANS.—Erlenmeyer (*Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde*, 1883, No. 9; *Gazette hebdomadaire de médecine et de chirurgie*, Dec. 28, 1883), after remarking that hydrate of chloral, morphine, bromide of potassium, nitrate of silver, and curare are of no avail in this affection, states that, on the contrary, the constant galvanic current, applied to the head, in the neighborhood of the nucha (feeble currents, continued for from five to twenty minutes), together with the use of a combination of atropine and ergot, is followed by decided amelioration. About half a grain of sulphate of atropine is made into a mass with fifteen grains of extract of ergot, and the mass is divided into thirty pills, of which one is to be taken daily. Pure crystallized hyoscyamine the author regards as both too costly and too dangerous.

VERATRINE IN TREMBLING.—M. Bazile Férís has used veratrine in some cases of trembling, and has obtained excellent results. He has used it in thirteen cases; six being of alcoholic origin, two came on after typhoid fever, and one was due to sclerosis *en plaques*. All patients were rapidly relieved of the disagreeable symptoms.

Férís ordinarily gives veratrine in pills containing gr. $\frac{1}{30}$ each,

the dose being four pills, to be taken during the day. From his results he draws the following conclusions: Trembling dependent upon alcoholism, or upon affections of the nervous system, or consecutive to pyrexia, disappears under the veratrine treatment. The action of the drug is almost instantaneous, but the administration should be kept up for some time after the trembling has disappeared.—*Fourn. de méd. de Paris*, Dec. 8, 1883—*Medical News*.

The reporter has employed veratrine in paralysis agitans with no good result.

TREATMENT OF LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA BY CUTANEOUS FARADIZATION.—Dr. C. Engelskjön reports at length in the *Norsk Magazin for Lægevidenskaben*, No. 3, 1883, the histories of two cases of tabes dorsalis treated by him by cutaneous faradization. The first case was that of a lady, thirty-nine years of age, of nervous temperament, and presenting a family history of various nervous diseases. Her ataxia dated back about three years, the first manifestations being a difficulty in ascending the stairs, and a sensation as if she would fall over backward. About six months later she was unable to stand without tottering when the eyes were closed, and began to complain of pains in the limbs. The most varied plans of treatment were tried without effect, and her condition continually grew worse. It was then that a trial was made of a strong faradic current applied to the skin of the forearm. The effect was almost instantaneous. The pains, which had been excruciating, were relieved at once, and although they soon returned, were always driven away by a reapplication of the current. This treatment was continued twice a day for several months, at the end of which time every trace of ataxic walk had disappeared. There was some question in this case whether the symptoms were not hysterical, but the author thought that they were not. The second patient was a man, forty-seven years of age, who gave history of syphilis twenty years previously, and who had had symptoms of tabes for seventeen years. Electricity, applied in the same manner as in the former case, was successful in quieting the pains, though at the time the report was made the treatment was of too short duration to allow of any marked improvement being noticed in the other symptoms; and the author had but little hope that any permanent result would be obtained owing to the length of time that the disease had existed. While he was pursuing these investigations Dr. Rumpf published a paper in the *Neurologisches Centralblatt* describing the same method. Dr. Engelskjön found that the same effect was produced by the galvanic current applied in the same way, and further, that it was due solely to peripheral nerve irritation, as the same or even more striking results, as regards the quieting of the lancinating pains, followed the application of a mustard plaster. He stated that cutaneous faradization has no therapeutic value in those cases of locomotor ataxia the first symptoms of which are referable to atrophy of the optic nerve.—*Medical Record*, Jan. 19, 1884.

THE TREATMENT OF BRAIN EXHAUSTION.—Dr. J. Leonard Corning, in an article upon brain exhaustion, lays down the following principles of treatment :

1. Cerebral rest. 2. Increased general and cerebral nutrition.
3. Elimination of psychical irritation.

The subject is secluded in a darkened room from ten to fifteen hours at a time, according to the amount of sleep it is desired shall be had during the twenty-four hours. The amount of sleep is *progressively* increased by habit, moderate medication, and hydrotherapy, and no attempt is made to produce a sudden state of stupor by the reckless use of sedatives. When the patient awakes, as is usually the case, two or even three times during the hours set apart for rest, nourishment is administered, but always in a fluid and easily digested form. Where difficulty is experienced in again falling asleep, resort is had in the beginning to limited medication. The few hours of wakefulness are devoted exclusively to some form of amusement—reading, writing, and even the mildest forms of mental concentration being absolutely prohibited.—*N. Y. Medical Journal*, Dec. 29, 1883.

PARALDEHYDE AS A HYPNOTIC.—Dr. J. C. Wilson gives additional testimony in favor of paraldehyde as a useful hypnotic. He found that a drachm was a good average dose for an adult.—*N. Y. Medical Journal*, Dec. 15, 1883.

Dujardin-Beaumetz gives an account of his experience with paraldehyde, which agrees in the main with that of previous observers. Dr. Yvon contributes an article upon the pharmacology of paraldehyde.—*Bulletin général de thérapeutique*, Jan. 30, 1884.

The reporter finds that a serious practical difficulty as regards the use of paraldehyde is its unpleasant taste.

HOW TO TREAT EPILEPSY.—A brochure upon the above subject has been published by Dr. A. Kühner. Leipzig u. Neuward, 1884, Heuser's Verlag, viii., 5, 31.

THE OSMIC ACID TREATMENT OF NEURALGIA.—Prof. A. Eulenberg, of Berlin, reports twelve cases of neuralgia treated by hypodermic injections of osmic acid. Of these three were cured, four were more or less improved. Eulenberg thinks that the drug has but feeble anti-neuralgic powers.—*Berlin-klinischn. Woch.*, Feb. 18, 1884.
C. L. DANA, M.D.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Illustrations of the Influence of the Mind upon the Body in Health and Disease. To Elucidate the Action of the Imagination. By Daniel Hack Tuke, M.D. Second American from the