NORTH-EASTERN DISPENSARY, CLASS OF NERVOUS DISEASES.

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The use of pure bromine in epilepsy and other nervous diseases. The formula recommended by Dr. Hammond for the use of pure bromine is $\mathcal{R}$ bromine, 3 i; aquae, $\mathfrak{z}$ viii $\mathfrak{m}$. Dose 3 i, largely diluted. As bromine is not soluble to the above extent in water, the formula must be modified by the addition of potassium bromid. q. s. A small amount is sufficient.

This was given in four cases of epilepsy. The first was that of a young man aged 22. He had had "fits" from childhood. Had been on the Island for a year, and during eight months had had no trouble. Soon after leaving the Island hospital, and one month before coming to the dispensary, the convulsions returned. They came on every other day or every day, sometimes several times a day. For three months he was treated with bromides, chloral, oxide of zinc, conium, ergot, etc. Temporary relief was given, the oxide of zinc being most efficient. Aug. 12th, while he was having fits every day he was put upon pure bromine, m. i, t. i. d. Aug. 22d, he had had no fits since taking the medicine. The medicine gave out Aug. 27th, and two days later he had a fit. Medicine renewed. Patient never returned. The bromine produced a longer relief from convulsions than any other drug prescribed.

The second case was that of a single woman aged 31, who had had epileptic seizures ever since she began menstruating 16 years before. They came on generally at the time of the menstrual period. Of late she had been having two a month. She was put on bromine and took it for a fortnight. No especial change in her condition was noticed.

A third case was that of a young man aged 19, who had been treated with bromides, etc., with no very good results. No especial change was produced by the use of bromine.

A fourth case was that of a young man aged 18, who had had fits for 8 or 10 years, and had been under all kinds of treatment. Of late nitrite of amyl had done the most good. Bromine seemed to lessen the intensity of the attacks.

In none of the four cases, except the last, was the drug given for a long time—not over three or four weeks.

A case presenting the symptoms described by Beard as sexual

neurasthenia was given the drug. The bromides had acted very well, making him more comfortable, but they produced so much acne and occasionally sleepiness, that bromine was substituted. The patient could not take more than two drops a day. It produced no effect whatever. Bromine is extremely disagreeable to take, and seems to be of very doubtful utility, though having some controlling action on epileptic fits.

Choral in chorea. A young girl in the service of Dr. Wooster Beach, suffered from a very obstinate chorea, with disturbed sleep. The usual remedies and tonics produced no relief. The patient was put upon chloral, with immediate subsidence of the bad symptoms and speedy progress to recovery.

A second case, a patient of Dr. Dana's, a girl of 5, anæmic but well nourished, was treated with arsenic tonics, cod-liver oil, etc., for two months, the disease not improving, but rather the contrary. The child was very restless, awkward, slept poorly, temper perverse, articulation impaired. Chloral produced considerable immediate improvement.

A third case was that of a girl of 15, who had had the disease for two or three weeks when seen. While under arsenic she grew worse and could hardly walk without stumbling. Sleep was disturbed. The addition of chloral at night to the regular use of arsenic was followed by improvement in sleep and in the other symptoms also.

Post-hemiplegic athetosis. Patient is a widow aged 60. Thinks her husband gave her syphilis 30 years ago. Fifteen years ago had a sudden attack of hemiplegia involving left side. Recovered in a few weeks and was able to walk about. Two years later fell down stairs and was laid up in bed for a month. Recovered. Five or six years ago symptoms of athetosis came on. These as now shown consist of slow, painful, clonic, contractions in muscles of left hand, arm, leg, and foot, most severe in upper extremity. The fingers are strongly extended and spread out, the forearm extended, and arm drawn down and back. The foot is extended, the leg flexed, and the thigh drawn back. The spasm is slow and lasts several seconds, then relaxes. There is blindness of the left eye from atrophy of optic nerve; also external strabismus, and left facial paresis; no anæsthesia; Faradic reactions good; no muscular hypertrophy. Treatment did no permanent good.