Both produce dilatation of the pupil and blindness; but gelsemium more distinctly paralyzes the third pair than conium.

Dr. B. has devoted much labour to determine the supposed antagonists to gelsemium. Strychnia, which, *a priori*, would seem to be a complete antagonist, is not so, as Dr. B. has convinced himself by repeated trials. An animal under the influence of gelsemium is quickly tetanized by strychnia.

Physostigma might be supposed to be an antagonist, but, on trial, the toxic effects of this article proved to be synergetic to gelsemium; death resulting more speedily from a dose of the latter when the former was also administered.

14. *Clinical Observations on the Bromides*.—Dr. NAMAIS publishes some important observations on the results of experiments made with the bromides during several past years. In 1867 he found that bromide of potassium was sometimes able to cure epilepsy, or at least that it could diminish the violence of the attacks and the frequency of their recurrence. To effect this, however, considerable doses were requisite, amounting even to as much as six drachms. In the event of any poisonous effects of the drug appearing, they vanish on the immediate stoppage of its administration in from two to three days. Bromide of potassium possesses a cumulative power, and may remain for a long time in the body, traces being discoverable for a considerable period in the urine. In 1868 the conclusions which he arrived at were—That a certain accumulation of bromide of potassium in the body of epileptic patients was required before it could produce its effects. The diminution of the accumulation of the bromide in the body can be estimated by the reduction of the quantity appearing in the urine. In one case the amount discharged in twenty-four hours by the urine amounted to a little more than fifteen grains, and he concluded from this that it was eliminated by other channels. The epileptic attacks cease when the urine contains 0.033 per cent. of bromide of potassium; they recur when the proportion falls to 0.030 per cent. The salt can also be discovered in the saliva, 100 parts containing 0.150 of the bromide. It exerts so specific an action in epilepsy as to influence it favourably even when the causes determining the attack still persist. His experiments in 1869 enabled him to add to the foregoing that the bromide not only accumulates in the fluids but in the solids of the body; that it checks reflectorial and convulsive movements, even in cases where it may be unable to exert any influence on the immediate cause of the attack; that bromide of iron corrects defective formation of blood, quiets nervous excitation, and produces the combined effects of iron and the bromides. In accordance with his present experience, Prof. Namais regards the *bromide of iron* as being in many instances a therapeutic agent of superior value in epilepsy even to the bromide of potassium.—*Practitioner*, Nov. 1870, from *Giornale Veneto di Scienze Mediche*, Ser. iii. T. 2, 1870.

15. *Saponified Cod-liver Oil in Phthisis*.—Dr. VAN DEN CORPUT, Professor of Clinical Medicine at the St. Jean Hospital, Brussels, has just published a paper giving an account of the great advantage which he has derived from the employment of cod-liver oil saponified by lime in the treatment of phthisis. After reviewing the published accounts of the beneficial action of cod-liver oil, and of the various means which have been adopted (with only a certain amount of success) for overcoming the repugnance which so many patients feel for it, he refers to some experiments which are but little known, although of a high therapeutic value, which were made in 1857, at the Artisan's Hospital, of Moscow, of treating phthisis by calcined bone. Of ninety women with tubercular cavities, twenty-five quitted the hospital cured, or at least in a condition of health relatively good. He attributes also to the presence of the same substance in James's powder "its recognized efficacy in certain cases of phthisis, the reputation of which is justly maintained in our own day," an admission which, we think, few will indorse here. Certain calcareous mineral waters are also debited with the same efficacy. As a first result of his own investigations in this direction, Professor Van den Corput found that the following formula furnished a preparation that is easier taken and is more efficacious than the oil taken alone, and he has made use of it in his hospital: R.—Cod-liver oil 250,