

phor an increase of blood pressure with very notable variations at irregular periods. Neither of these, the increase or the variations, took place in animals whose cervical cords had been divided; the pressure fell, on the other hand, under the influence of the camphor. The author, hence, concludes that it directly excites the vaso-motor centre in the medulla. In frogs (corresponding to the spinal paralysis) there is a dilatation of the mesenteric artery under the influence of camphor, whether after previous constriction or not the author leaves uncertain. Rabbits, in general, exhibit the same phenomena as cats. In dogs, the influence on the blood pressure is less obvious. If both vagi are divided in the cats, the increase of pressure and the variations are absent. In mammals, it appears from the author's experiments, the heart does not seem to be influenced by camphor in any degree worth mentioning. Dogs bore the administration of from 12 to 20 grammes per day for a week, without showing any odor of camphor in the urine or foeces (the convulsions were endured without damage). There occurs in the urine an acid, which, with the presence of ammonia, is precipitated by acetate of lead. The quantity of this acid is the greater, the greater quantity of camphor administered. Wiedemann did not succeed in isolating and fully investigating this acid. It is soluble in water and alcohol, less so, or not at all, in ether; it does not crystallize, and it contains nitrogen. When heated with dilute mineral acids, it resolves itself into (1.) a non-nitrogenous substance soluble in ether, indifferent towards acids and alkalies, and melting and subliming with heat, and (2.) a substance quickly reducing copper and bismuth oxides in alkaline solution. Digestion experiments gave only negative results.

APOMORPHINE IN EPILEPSY.—E. Vallender, *Berlin Klin. Wochenschrift*, 1877, No. 14, (Abst. in *Centralblatt*, No. 28) succeeded in aborting epileptic seizures by the subcutaneous injection of apomorphine during the aura. The quantity used was one-fourth of a syringe of a 1 per cent. solution, (about 1-24th grain). In one case the previously frequent attacks were entirely prevented for a time, by methodic administration of the apomorphine.

A NEW TREATMENT OF TETANUS.—In view of the unsatisfactory results ordinarily obtained in the treatment of tetanus by all the methods thus far employed, Dr. de Renzi (of Gênes) has undertaken, with the aim of finding some more efficacious treatment of this affection, some very interesting experiments on the strychnine tetanus of frogs, which are, as is well known, very susceptible to the influence of this drug. He has thus been enabled to lay down a rational method of treatment of this terrible disease.

First, we will give in a few words the results of these experiments:

1. Tetanus is more severe in animals kept in full light than in those kept in darkness. This difference is not very marked.

2. The convulsions of tetanus develop themselves more rapidly, and with more intensity in animals which are constantly being disturbed, than in those that are kept quiet. The influence of mechanical excitation is much more marked under the influence of light.

3. Small frogs poisoned with a twentieth of a milligramme of strychnia, readily succumb if roughly handled, but they may recover if they are left in perfect quiet.

M. de Renzi concludes from these experiments that absolute repose is the most rational treatment of tetanus. In fact, during the academic year 1872-3, he treated in his clinic two cases of tetanus. The first, treated with successive doses of chloral and repeated injections of curare, terminated with death; the second, treated almost exclusively by absolute repose, ended in recovery. In the following year, of two cases of which he had the care, one recovered under treatment by absolute quiet, the other, though treated in the same way, succumbed. Finally, during the year just finished, M. de Renzi received a fourth case in his clinic, which, like the three preceding ones, was treated by the method of absolute quiet, and this time with perfect success.

En resumé, according to the author, the following is the proper procedure in the treatment of a case of tetanus.

1. Place the patient in a perfectly dark room, and only open the door partially once in four hours, to pass in food and drink.

2. Stop up the external ears with wax, and recommend the patient to rest as tranquilly as is possible for him.

3. Every hour give him out of a suitable vessel, soup, an egg, and two spoonfuls of white wine. For drink, water, with a very small quantity of wine.

4. To quiet pain give a little belladonna and ergot.

5. Have a carpet on the floor of the room. *Gaz. Med. de Paris (Gaz. des Hopitaux, No. 123, Oct. 23, 1877.)*

THE GOMBI ARROW POISON.—In a recent number of the *Bulletin Mensuelle de la Société de Acclimation* of Paris, M. M. E. Hardy gives a detailed account of researches and experiments on the active principle of the poison obtained from the seeds of *Strophanthus hispidus*. This plant, which belongs to the poisonous order Apocynaceae, was first observed by Houdetot, a French naturalist in Senegambia, afterwards by Smeathmann, near Sierra Leone; by Baikie, at Mupé; by Griffon de Bellay, at Gaboon; and by Gustav Mann, in Western Tropical Africa. It is a climber, with a hollow cylindrical stem, and grows in the forests, where it ascends to the summits of the highest trees. The oblong, nearly sessile, opposite leaves, are from ten to twelve centimetres long by five wide, and are covered with hairs, particularly on the under surface. The yellow flowers are borne on terminal cymes. The fruit is a cylindrical follicle, somewhat thicker than the thumb, and contains from one hundred to two hundred oval seeds. By means of a fruit given them by the Paris Society, MM. Hardy and Gallois have discovered that the active principle is not, as was