

as the sleep produced is much more refreshing. In cases where the patient is restless and cannot fall asleep, larger doses are usually indicated. Another point to which the author calls attention is the injurious effect of insomnia upon the various symptoms of insomnia, especially the dyspepsia. He cites a number of cases in which the relief of sleeplessness under the administration of trional was followed by a rapid improvement of the digestive functions, and with Charcot regards the dyspepsia as secondary to and not as a cause of neurasthenia. The favorable effects of trional also extend to other symptoms of the neurasthenic condition so that it deserves to be regarded as something more than a hypnotic in this obstinate class of cases and may lay claim even to curative properties.

Note on the Production of Amaurosis by the Extract *Filicis Moris*.—Mosius (*Bulletin de l'Académie Royale de Médecine de Belgique*, 1895, No. 6)

In the treatment of individuals affected with anchylostomes the application of the extract *filicis moris* has been recommended not only in rather large doses (10 grammes), but several days in succession so as not to destroy the parasites only, but also their eggs. Sometimes visual troubles, amblyopia or even amaurosis have been seen to follow this radical treatment. Usually these disturbances pass away. The author reports two cases, however, in which these disturbances remained stationary. In one case after the administration of ten grammes *pro die* during three days complete blindness set in, and the patient remained blind. Ophthalmoscopically, first a simple anemia of the disk and retina was observed. Pupils dilated *ad maximum*, without any reaction. In the course of time complete atrophy of the optic nerves was established.

The second patient had taken ten grammes of the extract on the first day, eight grammes on the second, and the same quantity on the fourth day. The night after taking the last dose amaurotic amblyopia developed in somewhat less degree than in the first case. Pupils dilated *ad maximum*; no response; anemia of the disks and retina. Some improvement of vision took place within months, but only to such degree that he could count fingers at a distance of six metres with the right eye, while with the left he could count them only when the hand was kept close by the eye; recognizes colors except green which appears gray to him. Pupils have remained dilated, but the left shows slight response to light.

M. has experimented with the extractum *filicis moris* upon four dogs. On two of them he effected amaurosis which remained stationary. The result of the microscopic researches of the specimens obtained from these two dogs, which will probably give information of the nature of the disease will be published later. ONUF.

Electricity in Medicine. W. J. Morton, M.D. (*N. Y. Med. Jour.*). Electro-therapeutics in a biological sense is the transformation (by the law of conservation of energies) of electric energy into that peculiar to vital cells. Electricity must not be regarded as an entity, but as having a variety of "properties," such as electrolysis, cataphoresis, etc., each of which may be used, singly or combined. Strong galvanic currents depress tissue nutrition, producing structural changes leading to physiological atrophy. Mild galvanic currents stimulate nutrition and produce hypertrophy, and if alternating cause similar effects to mild continuous currents. The galvanic current and the negative pole is especially indicated in chronic inflammation where newly-formed tissue occurs. Catabolic or destructive events in tissue uniformly present the sign of negativity, that is to say, are at their origin electro-positive. The negative pole is indicated to arrest catabolism, the positive to augment it. The positive pole is rarely indicated, and if so at all, upon the basis of an electrotonic effect to produce sedation of neu-