

from the shock of even the slightest injury. In my patient's case, a state bordering on delirium tremens soon set in, and proved rapidly fatal. He was never intemperate, never subject to any innate vice of the nervous system."

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e.—THERAPEUTICS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

CAFFEINE AS A LOCAL ANÆSTHETIC.—Dr. Ferrier and Dr. Fauvel claim that caffeine is as good a local anæsthetic as cocaine. Dr. F. employed it to the almost entire exclusion of the latter in his practice. Dr. Laborde, on the other hand, was unable to obtain any anæsthetic effect with caffeine or theine (*Lancet*, May 23, 1885). Argyl-Robertson also obtained no anæsthesia, but mydriasis with a 16-per-cent. solution of caffeine (*Brit. Med. Jour.*, Jan. 3, 1885). These different results will probably be found to be due to difference in the preparations. It has already been shown that many preparations of coca are different alkaloids. The product of the second maceration of coca leaves, for example, contains a large amount of a derivative of hygrine (Panas, Calmelo). This has the property of producing mydriasis, but not anæsthesia. The product of the first extraction, on the other hand (pure cocaine), does not cause mydriasis. The high price of cocaine has caused manufacturers to extract the leaves twice. Very probably similar impurity will be found in caffeine.

APOMORPHINE IN NERVOUS AFFECTIONS.—Weil used apomorphine successfully in a case of singultus in a patient with tubercular meningitis. The singultus had resisted electricity, morphia, and atropia, and was so severe as to prevent sleep. He also reports (*Lyon Médicale*, 48, 1884) its successful use in a case of chorea, which was so severe as to cause insomnia, dysphagia, and emaciation. Immediate improvement followed and continued under hypodermic doses of apomorphia ($2\frac{1}{2}$ mgm.). The same writer also reports a case of cortical epilepsy successfully treated by this drug. The usual remedies had been given without effect. Subcutaneous injections of apomorphine continued for thirty-eight days caused the disappearance of the paroxysms. Dr. Lawrence also cured with apomorphine a case of hereditary hystero-epilepsy that had resisted every other treatment.—The *Therapeutic Gaz.*, April, 1885.

COCAINE IN THE TREATMENT OF THE OPIUM-HABIT.—Erlenmeyer was induced, by the difference of opinion regarding the value of cocaine and its physiological action when given to counteract the effect of the withdrawal of opium, to study the effect of the drug. E. employed Merck's preparation, and made 236 separate observations. He gave the drug subcutaneously in