

A male coolie, under treatment for lumbago in the Lucea Parochial Hospital, Jamaica, was ordered a hypodermic injection of one sixth of a grain of morphia, the injection to be repeated every night. This treatment was continued for three nights, and on the morning following the third use of the injection the patient complained of feeling unwell at breakfast, and retired to bed at 9.10 A. M., where he was seized with convulsions of a tetanic nature. His symptoms were the following: he was quite insensible, his eyes were widely opened and staring, the pupils slightly contracted, teeth clenched, face flushed, nostrils dilated, and breathing hurried. There was spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the upper extremity; the temperature was increased; the heart's action regular, though weak. This attack lasted for ten minutes, when consciousness returned; but on attempting to speak he was seized again, and the convulsions returned at gradually increasing intervals, until they finally left him at twelve, noon.

The treatment immediately adopted in this case was the administration of doses of ten drops of the tincture of belladonna every hour, with coffee and brandy, and the application of the extract of belladonna down the course of the spine. This treatment was continued for a few hours, and, all urgent symptoms having yielded to it, the belladonna was given in diminished doses of five drops every four hours, and continued for the two following days. At the end of that time, no recurrence of the convulsions having taken place, the ordinary treatment for lumbago was recommended, of course with the omission of the morphia injection.

[This is interesting in connection with the case entitled Unusual Effect of a Subcutaneous Injection of Morphine in our issue of October 30. It will be observed that the disease under treatment was lumbago in both instances.]

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

TO THE SANITARIANS OF THE UNITED STATES.

By the act establishing the National Board of Health it is made the duty of the board to report to Congress at its next session a plan for a national public health organization, which plan shall be prepared after consultation with the principal sanitary organizations and the sanitarians of the several States of the United States, special attention being given to the subject of quarantine, both maritime and inland, and especially as to regulations which should be established between state or local systems of quarantine and a national quarantine system.

In order to fulfill this requirement, the National Board of Health has requested those interested in the subject to communicate their views to the board, and now respectfully invites members of state and local boards of health and sanitarians generally to meet with it in conference in the city of Nashville, Tenn., on the 18th to the 23d of November meeting of the American Public Health Association.

T. J. TURNER, Secretary.

J. L. CABELL,
President National Board of Health.

THE CLIMATE OF NORDHOFF, VENTURA COUNTY, CAL.

MR. EDITOR, — Allow me to call the attention of physicians who have patients and friends who must seek winter quarters, on account of throat affections, catarrh, and consumption, to a few facts relative to Southern California, and especially to this locality. Readers of the JOURNAL will perhaps remember an article on Nordhoff¹ as a health resort, published October, 1877, by Dr. French. His statements, so far as I remember them, are essentially true. Dr. A. H. Adams, in the service of the American Board of Missions, saw the article while at his post in Japan, and had his wife, who had premonitory symptoms of phthisis well marked, remove to Nordhoff. Dr. Adams soon followed her, and he has resided here a year. He has just returned to Japan, fully satisfied with the result, and convinced that the climate of this locality has decided hygienic conditions, the best for permanent residence of any locality known to him. Mrs. Adams is to remain here for the

¹ In the Ojai Valley (pronounced Ohi).