

doing which you can alone hope to bear it with comfort to yourselves and benefit to the public.

Equal attention should be given to all subjects of study; they are so intimately connected with each other, and with the practical application of our knowledge in the treatment of diseases, that ignorance in any one of them will sure to be a cause of future difficulty. The trust which a patient places in us should make us careful to be honest to avoid any semblance of quackery. When a medical man allows the thought of the fee to come before other considerations he is not to be trusted as a worthy disciple of the healing art. In this way we will render ourselves more worthy of the confidence which the public place in us—a confidence which is of mutual benefit,—it encourages us in our efforts to do our best to repay them in receiving the results of these efforts, when they apply to us in their need. To do everything in our power to spread abroad a knowledge of the true means to prevent or arrest the spread of disease is, I hold, the duty of every medical man. If our professional advice was more frequently sought for as to the daily mode of life of our patients, there would be fewer diseases to treat, and our attention could then be more profitably directed to prevent rather than cure disease, which, if not easier, would be more beneficial to the community. I would also advise you in ordering alcoholic stimulants to be careful to order their discontinuance when satisfied that they are no longer required to meet the exigencies of the case, so that they could not advance as an excuse of the vicious indulgence the doctor's order. The same may be said of the use of narcotics, such as opium, choral, or morphia; you must also remember that, as medical men, you must often necessarily be the confidant of your patient both in regard to personal and family matters. Not only the health, but often the happiness, of families may depend on your discretion. Cultivate, therefore, the habit of reticence about your patients; even in professional circles cases should only be mentioned anonymously. You must also do as much as lies in your power to advance the science of medicine. Bear in mind now that you are entering upon your life's work, and one which will demand all your energies, especially a sound mind in a sound body. Do not cram; work regularly, and you will thus economise both time and labour; your lectures will interest instead of wearying you, and the facts will be impressed on your memory, so that it will neither fail you at the examination table nor the patient's bedside. Do not during your student career devote your time to any especial subject; time enough for that when you have obtained your diploma. To be a good specialist you should be strong all round. Disease of special organs has such a close dependence upon constitutional conditions that it is impossible to separate the study of the part from the whole if you are to be successful in your treatment. These hints I offer to you as a help in going through your college career. And I give you this encouragement, that if you put your hearts in the work now it will surely become a pleasure, and when once that is the case you need not fear examinations, responsibilities, the attainment of professional reputation, and a fair amount of worldly success.

CASE OF POISONING BY PARAFFINE.

By HORACE ELLIOTT, M.R.C.S.,

LATE HOUSE-PHYSICIAN AND HOUSE-SURGEON, WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

A SHORT time back a child two years of age was brought to me by its mother, who stated that the child had been sent to a shop with an elder sister to purchase some paraffine. The paraffine was put into a tin can, and given to the younger child to carry. As they were going home they stopped to look at a street row; while doing so the younger child removed the cork, and drank some of the paraffine.

The child was seen about twenty minutes afterwards, and was found to be in a state of semi-collapse, being very pale; the surface of the body was cold and clammy; the pulse small and feeble; the pupils were widely dilated, but acted slightly to the light from a candle. The breath smelt strongly of paraffine. The little patient was dazed and very drowsy, and could only be kept awake with difficulty. Did not cry. Vomited slightly before I saw it, and again soon afterwards. Emetics were administered, which only acted slightly, the vomited matter smelling very

strongly of paraffine. The child was not allowed to go to sleep, and about two hours afterwards it began to rally; the surface of the body becoming warmer, and the pulse more frequent; the patient cried; there was no diarrhoea. Next morning the child was quite well, the pupils being normal, and the breath smelling slightly of paraffine. I was unable to ascertain the quantity swallowed, owing to its being in a tin can.

From the above notes, it will be seen that the symptoms somewhat resembled those of poisoning by belladonna.

Bristol.

A Mirror OF HOSPITAL PRACTICE, BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Nulla autem est alia pro certo noscendi via, nisi quamplurimas et morborum et dissectionum historias, tum aliorum tum proprias collectas habere, et inter se comparare.—MORGAGNI *De Sed. et Caus. Morb.*, lib. iv. Proœmium.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

LEFT-SIDED EPILEPTIC HEMIPLEGIA AND APHASIA;
RECOVERY.

(Under the care of Dr. FERRIER.)

FOR the following notes we are indebted to Mr. P. H. Emerson, house-physician.

A. W—, aged twenty-seven, was admitted into the Todd ward on Monday, June 21st last, and transferred to Dr. Ferrier's care. All the following facts were obtained by questioning the patient, who comprehended and wrote the answers himself on a slate. His father, mother, and six brothers and sisters were all alive and healthy. He himself was married and had four children healthy, except the eldest daughter, aged six, who had had two fits, which from the description were apparently epileptic; otherwise she, too, was healthy. He had been a whitesmith for nine years, over and above serving an apprenticeship of five years. He was a right-handed man.

About 2.30 P.M. on Nov. 20th, 1869, he fell from a scaffold twenty-five feet high. In falling he struck a "padluck" with the left arm and thigh, and was so turned over that on reaching the ground he fell on his head. He was picked up insensible, and remained so until the next morning. From this fall he said he received a severe cut in the head, parallel with the middle line half an inch to the right, and extending from the level of the hair in front to the occipital protuberance behind. Six weeks after this he had his first fit (December, 1869). He had a second fall from a scaffold on Feb. 20th, 1870, followed in twenty minutes by his second fit. Altogether he had had eighteen fits. He remembered fits on July 15th and 23rd, 1875; one in December, 1879; three on March 23rd; one on June 5th, and one on June 9th, 1880. He could not remember the exact dates of others. The last two fits were the nearest together. On Nov. 30th, 1877, a piece of steel flew off from his chisel into his left eye, which led to its excision one week before Christmas, 1878. He had had lead colic three times in 1878 to 1879. Twice he had a sore-throat, but denied having had syphilis. Never had any other illness.

All the fits had been similar. Aura, he said, begins in the left hand with involuntary semi-closure and opening of hand, followed in about half an hour by pain in the left leg. About half an hour before the fit he feels a pain round abdomen, which creeps upwards as far as the larynx in front to a level with the third cervical vertebra behind, he then gets twitchings in the left side of his face, and about ten minutes before the fit these symptoms spread to the other side of the body. He is then seized with vertigo, and straightway falls unconscious. He falls on his face, foams at the mouth, bites his tongue, and struggles violently. The fit lasts from half to one hour. On recovering he feels too weak to stand, and usually rests for about one hour. After the fit he is unable to work again for a week. He stated that he has the aura before each fit, and has never had an aura without a fit following it, has never had more than one fit a day, and has gone a year without a fit. Since the first