

there is any remarkable abuse by the public of the facilities which they enjoy of purchasing for themselves any quantity of chloral. The drug, it may be mentioned, is not included by the Legislature amongst those the sale of which is guarded by the name and address of the purchaser being required to be registered by the vendor. In conclusion, the committee expressed regret that, in spite of repeated appeals to individuals generally and to the profession by circular, and through the medical press, they have failed to obtain any more definite information than that contained in the preceding report; and, although the opinions expressed by numerous gentlemen of experience will, doubtless, be received with the respect which is their due, the committee would have been glad if more facts, from which definite conclusions might have been drawn, had been placed at their disposal.—*Lancet*, Jan. 17, 1880.

Duboisia and its Therapeutic Use.

A slight degree of poisoning by duboisia produces in man the following phenomena: Dryness of the mouth and throat, dilatation of the pupil and accompanying it dimness of vision; when in a more advanced stage it is accompanied by cephalalgia, vertigo, and drowsiness, which may even deepen into a comatose stupor. The pulse is considerably quickened, it may range from 66 to 180 (Ringer). The skin is covered with a scarlatiniform eruption. Sometimes an extraordinary lassitude may be observed, an uncertainty in talking, and delirium.

In the experiments undertaken by M. FAUQUÉ (*Thèse de Paris*, 1879) a noticeable quickening of respiration was noted in animals, which was not observed with atropia. The central nervous system is then acted upon: thence come delirium and stupor. In the case of animals subjected to subcutaneous injections of duboisia a marked weakening of the excito-motor power follows. This weakness continues as long as access of blood to the member, which is being studied, is prevented. In exceptional cases tetaniform convulsions have been observed.

The action on the circulatory apparatus is shown by the acceleration of the heart-beat, but this is not observed in frogs. In these animals, contrary to what is produced in the case of dogs, there is a diminution in the heart-beat.

The secretion of sweat and saliva is considerably diminished. From this results the great dryness of the mouth and throat, observed in men and animals. There should be, according to M. Fauqué, a paralyzing action on the excito-sudoral nervous fibres, admitted by M. Vulpian.

Finally duboisia causes dilatation of the iris, and paralysis of accommodation, and seems to act by direct paralysis of the motor nerve-filaments of the ciliary muscles and iris. Besides, the action on the iris and the ciliary muscle is exercised independently; the iris remains paralyzed longer than the muscle of accommodation. Duboisia differs from atropia by the persistence and greater rapidity of its action on the muscle of accommodation.

Duboisia is indicated in all cases in which atropia acts badly. However, in two cases of iritis reported by Galezowski it has caused as much irritation as atropia.

M. Gubler has used it for the sweats of phthisis in the dose of 1 milligramme by injection. He has employed it in the same proportion to raise the number of pulsations, which had fallen to 40 in the case of a tuberculous patient, and as a calmative in a case of maniacal delirium. The hypodermic injection (1 part to 200) at the rate of two drops a day at the beginning is the most convenient mode of employment as a collyrium intended to cause mydriasis. M. Galezowski gives from 0.02 gramme to 0.10 gramme of water at the rate of three to five drops a day. In cases of inflammation of the cornea from foreign bodies the

following salve may be employed with advantage, placed under the eyelid morning and evening: Neutral sulphate of duboisia, 0.02 gramme; vaseline, 10 grammes.—*Revue des Sciences Médicales*, Jan. 1880.

Intravenous Injections of Milk.

Dr. DEMETRE-CULGER has studied (*Thèse de Paris*, 3 Mai, 1879, No. 217) experimentally the effect on animals of intravenous injections of milk, which have been proposed and practised by Hodder and Thomas on man; he maintains that these injections are dangerous and cause emboli. The following are the conclusions arrived at by M. Culger:—

1. The artificial introduction of milk into the circulatory system is far from being as harmless as the assumptions founded upon certain analogies, noticeably the analogy with chyle, would tend to attribute to it.

2. The *quantity* of milk, all other things being equal, introduced by intravenous injections, appears to exert an actual influence upon functional phenomena, more or less grave, caused by this introduction.

The experiments tend to prove that in the case of a dog of medium size and weight of 12 kilogrammes, we cannot, with impunity, introduce into the circulatory system in the physiological condition a quantity of milk, exceeding at least that of 100 grammes.

3. As regards the *quantity*, the effects produced by intravenous injections of milk absolutely resemble those which result from the intravenous injection of water, and in both cases the effects proceed principally from the modifications of the blood, and from the more or less dissolving of the colouring matter of the blood globules.

4. The symptoms caused by intravenous injection of milk, and which may prove mortal, with tolerable rapidity, in the preceding experimental conditions, appears to be due essentially to the formation of emboli, by the milk globules in the capillary vessels in the greater part of the viscera, notably in the respiratory organs and in the myelencephalon (rachidian bulb).—*Bull. Gén. de Thérap.*, Jan. 30, 1880.

MEDICINE.

The Treatment of Leucocythæmia.

Dr. ALFRED CARPENTER read a paper at a recent meeting of the Medical Society of London on the treatment of leucocythæmia. He pointed out that there was something wanting in the present plan of dealing with therapeutics, inasmuch as members of the medical profession are continually trying processes for the cure of diseases which have been shown to be useless, and that text-books continue to recommend medicines which have never done any good. He then gave the history in general terms of two cases of leucocythæmia which he had met with in private practice, and in which there were singular symptoms, one being associated with intense neuralgia, the other with recurring priapism. The neuralgic case was treated by means of iron, stimulants, and narcotics. In the opinion of the author the remedies only increased the intensity of the pain. He always found that the internal as well as the cutaneous administration of narcotics left the patient more sensitive after the effect of the dose had disappeared, and that they were useless in arresting the course of the disease. He entered a protest against the cutaneous administration of narcotics as only another form of