

five grams in a week; he fell into a lethargic state, lasting eighteen days, during which time the most violent cutaneous faradisation was followed by no reflex. Life was sustained by rectal feeding. Cases which have ended fatally have been recorded. Dr. Hameau has reported a case, where a twenty-two-year-old woman, who was epileptic since her seventeenth year and who was treated with increasing doses of the bromide of potash, two to sixteen grams. In the course of a year she had taken two kilograms of the drug. She was emaciated, cachectic; her forehead was covered with copper-colored papules; she suffered from gastralgic pains and colicky attacks; and, finally, a dry cough bothered her. Delirium set in and she died the following night. A case, described by Dr. Eigner, and of more recent date, a young female epileptic, nineteen years of age, took, in the course of a year, at least six grams of the potash salt, and in the last two weeks, ten to twelve grams per day. Besides a universal acne and a badly smelling breath, she presented nasal and pharyngeal catarrh, salivation, the saliva being able to be drawn out in shreds, anorexia, meteorism, pains in the forehead and lumbo-sacral region, and weakness of memory. Toward the end there appeared: somnolence, unequal pupils, trembling of tongue and hands, diminution of the sensibility of the lower extremities, and decrease of the tendon-reflexes, as well as hesitating and difficult speech, without any actual disturbance in articulation. Finally there appeared psychic excitement, which increased to delirium, with hallucinations of the different senses. Death took place from broncho-pneumonia. The changes which take place in the nervous system under such circumstances are not well known; the accumulation of bromides in the tissues is still a disputed question.

F. H. P.

TREATMENT OF CHOREA WITH EXALGINE.

Dr. Hugo Löwenthal reports the results which he obtained with exalgine in the treatment of chorea, in the Berlin Polyclinic. In the course of the year 1891, he treated thirty-five patients with this remedy, in doses of two decigrams, three times per diem, giving it in some cases five times daily, so that the daily dose did not exceed one gram nor sink below six decigrams, excepting in the case of a three-year-old boy, who received but one decigram once a day. He prescribed the powdered drug

to be taken dissolved in warm sweetened water. The patients' ages varied from three to eighteen years. The length of the treatment varied from eight days to four months. A large number of the patients came under treatment immediately after the outbreak of the disease, on the second or third day. In these cases the remedy acted so well that, for example, in two boys, a cure was effected in eight days. Other patients came under observation at the eighth or fourteenth day of the disease. The average duration of this disease was five to six weeks. Some few children were brought after the disease had been progressing for weeks. An improvement was remarked in some patients after twelve powders of 2 decigrams, or a total dose of 2.4 grams; in most of them after twenty-five to thirty powders, hence after 4.5 to 6 grams. In violent cases of chorea, where the muscles of the face, body and extremities were greatly involved, the condition became worse during the first two weeks, to improve gradually, yet slowly. Its action was excellent in those cases accompanied by anxiety, psychic excitement, violent weeping, and peculiar behavior of the children; these symptoms disappeared already in the first week. Difficulties in speech or rapid speech were rapidly improved, once already after the sixth powder; salivation, which in two cases was quite profuse, ceased during the first eight days. Weakness of memory was favorably influenced. Formication in the fingers and arms disappeared after twelve powders, in one case; articular pains vanished in a one-year-old boy after twenty-four powders. Together with this favorable action, disagreeable, a side-action was remarked, as roaring in the ears, a feeling as if one were intoxicated, spots before the eyes, nausea and vomiting, increase of already existing pains, headache, cyanosis and icterus. These soon disappear after leaving off the remedy, and did not reappear after commencing its use. The patients became easily accustomed to its use (*Wiener medicinische Presse*, No. 8, 1892).

Germain Sée claims that there is no specific in chorea. Arsenic and antipyrin give the best results in ordinary cases. Where rheumatism is suspected at the bottom of the disease, the salicylate of soda is associated with antipyrin. In cardiac chorea he prescribes chloral and hydrotherapeutics, associated with heart remedies: the iodide of potash, and especially the iodide of calcium. Auguste Voisin employs the iodide of potash, up to 8 grams per

diem, together with douches, every day, twice a day. Gymnastics and avoidance of all intellectual work or excitement. If the disease resist this treatment, he employs the oxide of zinc, associated with the bromide of potash. The oxide is given in doses of 2 decigrams per diem, in pills, as a maximal dose; but then the bromide should not be administered beyond 4 grams daily. Each pill of the oxide should contain 1 cgm., and one may begin by administering two pills twice a day, increasing by 1 centigram per diem until one reaches 20 cgms, the maximal dose; in young girls he adds extract of valerian to the zinc preparation. He claims that it is rare that chorea can resist this treatment methodically carried out. Simon employs rest in bed, revulsion to the upper portion of the spine, by means of mustard poultices, hot frictions and dry cups, hot-air baths, given in bed, every two days. Internally, he administers the tincture of aconite and *cisuta*, 10 to 15 drops in twenty-four hours; if fever be present, the sulphate of quinine. Antipyrin he puts great confidence in. Methodic gymnastics are of great service as after-treatment (*La Semaine médicale*, No. 13, 1892).

The eclectics claim results from *actea racemosa*—black cohosh (Translator).

F. H. P.

NOTE RELATIVE TO THE BUFFALO LITHIA WATER.

There is a point in relation to the therapeutical efficacy of the Buffalo Lithia Water which has not as yet, I think, received sufficient attention. It is well known that many cases of diseases of the nervous system are complicated with lithæmia, and unless this condition is removed a cure is very often retarded and not frequently entirely prevented. It is quite commonly the case that in cerebral congestion producing insomnia, nervous prostration resulting from over-mental work or much emotional disturbance, and in epilepsy (to say nothing of many cases of insanity) an excess of uric acid in the blood is often observed. This state appears to be altogether independent of the character of the food; for no matter how careful the physician may be in regard to the diet of his patient the lithæmic condition continues. I have tried to overcome this persistence by the use of phosphate of ammonia and other so-called solvents for uric acid, but without notable effect.