

The undesirable symptoms which are sometimes noticed during the application of electricity may not be injurious, however uncomfortable they are for the time—they do not, Dr. Lincoln thinks, absolutely indicate that the treatment is not doing good.

SALICYLATE OF SODA.—MM. Bochefontaine and Chabert have experimented upon the physiological action of salicylate of soda, and recently reported their results to the Acad. des Sciences, Paris. According to these investigators, it is neither a cardiac nor a muscular poison, nor does it act on the extremities of the nerves. Its action appears to be limited to the gray substance.

ACTION OF PILOCARPINE AND ATROPINE ON THE SWEAT GLANDS.—Dr. B. Luchsinger (*Pflüger's Archiv.*, Bd. 15, S. 482,) has continued his researches on the mechanism of perspiration in the cat. Pilocarpine, the alkaloid of jaborandi injected subcutaneously in the dose of 0.01 grm. (1.7 grain), causes violent perspiration of the paws. That this is in part due to stimulation of the nerve-terminations is proven by the persistence of sweating after section of the sciatic nerve. If, however, a sufficient time has elapsed since the section to permit complete degeneration of the nerve, the corresponding sweat glands are no longer excited to action by pilocarpine. But the alkaloid stimulates also the origin of the sweat nerves in the cord, since on cutting off the blood supply to the hind legs and severing the cord from the medulla, pilocarpine will still induce perspiration.

The effects of the above mentioned dose are checked by 0.003 grm. atropine. Even electric stimulation of the sciatic nerve fails now to excite the sweat glands. But if, now, another dose of 0.01 grm. pilocarpine is injected under the skin of one paw, the secretion returns at that spot and irritation of the nerve is again followed by perspiration, while the paralytic effects of atropine are still manifest in the glands of the other foot. These well executed experiments prove a perfect reciprocal antagonism between pilocarpine and atropine in the action on the sweat glands. H. G.

NEUROTOMY.—At the International Medical Congress at Geneva (Sept. 9-15, 1877, rep. in *Gaz. des Hôpitaux*), M. Letievant defended the operation of neurotomy in rebellious cases of neuralgia. It was, he said, by no means as unreliable a means as had been stated, and no more dangerous than any other insignificant wound. Care should be taken not to cut the nerve until it was fairly laid open to view, and that no vessels, etc., are included in the section, to avoid hemorrhage. Care should also be taken to not tear or roughly pull the nerve so as to shock its encephalic roots.

M. Letievant has performed twenty-two neurotomies in sixteen cases and twelve individuals. In all the cases it was performed on account of intense and persistent pains, resisting all other treatment. The duration of