

tea, is probably explained by the greater use of tobacco by men and the consequent satisfaction for a stimulant, while women assuage the importunities of the system for a stimulant by tea. While theine and caffeine produce diametrically opposite effects for the most part, they are similar in causing cerebral excitement, wakefulness, hallucinations and a soporific state following the exhaustion of insomnia. Tea and coffee undoubtedly antagonize each other, or rather the symptoms which each are likely to produce alone are not present when the two are used together. This was noticed in some patients who could drink large quantities of tea and coffee and be but slightly affected. They, however, complained the most of insomnia and excitement and of almost no other symptom.

FREEMAN.

Therapeutic Effect of an Exploratory Craniectomy.—

Dasara (*Clinica Chirurgica*, 1895, p. 35).

As the result of a fall from a horse, the patient presented all the signs of fracture of the skull; coma, otorrhagia, delirium, etc.

This condition lasted a week, when epileptiform convulsions made their appearance and became more and more frequent. There was nystagmus, deviation of the eyes to the left, contracture of the left side of the face, trembling of the left arm and leg, trismus, and at last tetanic spasms of the whole body. Respiration stertorous; lack of reaction in the pupils; face cyanosed; pulse rapid; axillary temperature 100.

The attacks increased in frequency until finally they came every two minutes. In a few hours the temperature rose to 103.

A large exploratory incision at the point of the right asterion was made, but nothing abnormal was found either upon the meninges or in the brain. The attacks having disappeared as soon as the skull was opened, nothing further was done. The results of this operation were remarkable; the temperature immediately returned to normal and the attacks ceased. At the end of twelve days the patient was entirely himself again. In view of this unexpected result, Roth was of the opinion that the lesion was cerebral contusion, fracture of the internal table, and traumatic meningo-encephalitis, which was arrested in its evolution by the craniectomy.

ROBINSON.

A Case of Tetanus Cured by the Antitoxin of Tizzoni-Cattani.—Caretto (*Riforma Medica*, 1895).

Seven days after the reception of a contused wound of the head, trismus appeared without fever.

Chloral and bromide of potash were given, but the disease grew steadily worse.

Injections of antitoxin were made forty-eight hours after the attack. These were repeated morning and evening for four days, and the patient continued to take the chloral and bromide.

The condition remained the same for two weeks, then the facial paralysis and the trismus progressively disappeared. The temperature never went beyond 103. This is the second case of tetanus treated by Tizzoni's antitoxin.

ROBINSON.

Insomnia in Surgery. G. G. Van Schaick, M.D. (*N. Y. Med. Jour.*). Insomnia from whatever cause is an important complication of surgical disorders. Its relief is necessary to the patients' comfort, and thereby the prognosis is improved and recovery materially assisted. Where pain is the chief factor, morphine is the only drug that will relieve with certainty. There are many surgical disorders with insomnia which may be relieved by trional. This remedy acts rapidly and safely, has no inhibitory action upon the secretions, seems to possess a stimulating effect, is well borne by the stomach, easily absorbed by the rectum and produces no unpleasant after effects.

FREEMAN.