

CHRONIC COCAINISM.

From a considerable number of observations it would seem that hallucinations of general sensibility are the first and most pronounced symptoms of chronic cocaine poisoning. M. Magnan (*Le Bulletin Médical*) reports three cases presenting various symptoms, but in all, the most marked were hallucinations of general sensibility. Two of Magnan's patients believed they had microbes under the skin, while the third thought that he had crystals of cocaine. Visual, auditory and olfactory hallucinations are frequently present in chronic cocaineism, but they are later in making their appearance. Epileptic convulsions occur also. In two of the three cases reported they were present. Sensorial hallucinations do not usually form as prominent a feature of cocaine poisoning as they do of alcohol and morphine poisoning.

SLEEP.

From time immemorial, the physiology of sleep has been a subject of the greatest interest to the philosophical physician. To recount the views advanced to explain this truly wonderful phenomena would serve no useful purpose, except to emphasize how prone we are to be satisfied with crude explanations. The theory advanced by Durham and Hammond that sleep is due to anæmia of the brain has, unfortunately, done duty for many years. This crude hypothesis is still quoted in many standard works as the true explanation of the cause of sleep.

In a recent article (*Archives de Physiologie*, 1 and 2, 1889) Brown-Séquard shows that the condition of the circulation has nothing to do with the production of sleep, that sleep occurs irrespective of the condition of the cerebral vessels. He has proved that sleep occurs in guineapigs and rabbits after section of the sympathetic on each side, and in cats and dogs after section of the vago-sympathetic on one side and removal of the superior cervical ganglion on the opposite side. As these operations paralyze the cerebral vessels, we have normal sleep in spite of cerebral hyperæmia. Brown-Séquard looks upon sleep as the result of an inhibition of intellectual activity. The consideration of a number of associated phenomena which occur during sleep has led the distinguished author to the above