

of children ; the due functioning of the brain hinders it from atrophying. It is to be kept in mind that functional debilitation of the brain leads to exaltation of the medullo-bulbar system, and therefore tends to exaggeration of the excitomotor power, that is to say, to the return of the epileptic fits.

The bromide, in medium doses of five to six grams, rather exalts than depresses the intellectual powers, which are generally intact between the fits, often indeed much developed, as I have seen in numerous examples ; history records great geniuses of this class, as Cæsar, Mahomet and Petrarch, who were epileptics.

*General Results of Bromidation in the Various Epilepsies, and their Principal Manifestations.*

1st. Of 150 epileptics treated by me in 25 years, 90 of whom have been closely observed, during two years and over, the majority began the treatment in ages between 10 years and 30 ; the commencement of the disease dated back to various epochs ; among those who had not reached ten, or who had passed 30, I cite the following : a boy of two years, who had never been able to take more than 25 centigrams of bromide per day, without falling into a profound prostration ; he remained without treatment during four years ; afterwards he took the bromide, and the fits disappeared. In an analogous case, in a boy of three years, the dose of a gram daily continued for two years, brought about, after some periods of physical depression, a complete cure, and he has continued free for many years. Amongst those over 30 years old, I mention one patient of 52 years, whose mother was an epileptic ; his attacks had lasted over 20 years ; he marvellously recovered, and his children are exempt from the disease.

2nd. Among these 150 epileptics, I count 10 cases due to deformity of the cranium with idiocy ; not one of these was cured ; three died after some alternations of relief ; death in two of the three was due to bromidic pneumonia, and in the third to ulcerations of the skin, with cachexia. In the remaining 140 cases, I have noted three of vertigo without fits ; in one of these the disease has resisted all treatment ; it was that of a well-formed girl, very intelligent, who had 40 vertigoes daily ; all the means employed were useless ; the bad result of the bromide is explicable by the cir-

cumstance that it is much less operative in cortical than in vaso-motor epilepsy. (?)

3rd. All the rest of the patients had convulsive seizures, some of which were preceded by asthma (*asma, ? aura*). In the great majority, whatever had been the previous number of the attacks, the disease was ameliorated in this way : the crises disappeared, not to return, unless rarely and far apart, and always so attenuated that the patients did not fall, nor lose consciousness, or have convulsions. Two-thirds of the patients in this category were followed and observed for years ; 12 recovered completely, and were able to leave off all treatment. All those who did not recover had suffered the effects of bromism up to the point of being forced to give up the treatment, for a certain time at least ; three young girls and a boy of four years had bromic disturbances of the bronchii, so persistent that I was obliged to renounce the bromide, or arrest its effects with aconite. In five other instances I had to contend with bromism of the skin, which became the seat of general eruptions that were often confluent ; here the addition of arsenic almost always succeeded in removing this complication. When these difficulties were surmounted, I had nothing to fear, unless errors of hygiene, regimen and drink ; unseasonable or too long bathing, and above all hydrotherapy, which hardly ever failed to produce disastrous effects.

4th. The effects of the treatment on the brain have been almost always favorable. Bennett, who has published a series of statistics in this relation, proves the perfect maintenance of the general and the intellectual powers in at least three-fourths of the cases submitted to bromidation, throughout five years. When the intellect becomes weak, the fact is always attributed to the treatment ; it is easier and less humiliating to the relatives to fall upon this alternative than to admit the real cause, which is the disease, invading and degrading the brain as it progresses.

In fine, the majority of the organs remain intact ; their functioning continues normal, and bromidation, well directed, with observance of the precautions indicated, may produce a definitive cure.

---

Luton of Rheims, and Verneuil of Paris recommend strychnia in hepatic affections of alcoholic origin.—*L'Union Médicale*.