

ance to it as a phenomenon of the intellectual order. Some go even so far as to suggest things most *outré* of those patients capable of being hypnotized, and who on awaking, execute faithfully the orders given. Hysteria, in short, expounded by some magnetizer, ignorant of medicine and conducted in fashionable drawing rooms, is paraded among the lower orders of society before interloping and dull amateurs. We do not hesitate to say, that these things are sad enough. For us, a convulsion of hysteria is a serious malady, and we place a just estimation on the means of curing it. As for making it an amusing puppet, bearing the sign and life of a nervous affection, we regard it as most reprehensible.

Seeing that so little is said of the therapeutics of hysteria, I feel it incumbent on me to refer in a few words to some happy results in my private practice. As physician to a manufactory employing a very considerable number of women, I have seen much hysteria, and have come to the conclusion that it is a much more serious affection than is generally believed. In a certain number of patients, I commence at first by giving attention to the general condition. To this effect I prescribe cod-liver oil, bitterwort, iron, quinine, beer, cold baths, etc. Having thus prepared the way for special treatment, I administer, if the attacks of hysteria appear frequently, three teaspoonfuls of Henry Mure's syrup in a little water, after each meal, during a month. The crisis is arrested; the patient is less nervous, more calm, better disposed, and performs her work with animation. I take advantage of this improvement to suspend the medicine and prescribe exercise, order milk in the way of diet, and to carry out certain recommendations appropriate to the condition, situation and idiosyncrasies of the patient. At the end of a month or six weeks and sometimes two months, unless an attack of hysteria should occur in the interval, I resume as before the use of the syrup in the same doses, during a month (menstrual period included); then I discontinue it one, two or three months, in the meantime supporting the general system by appropriate nourishment, and ordering, according to the case or the season, cold water, sulphur, or alkaline baths, and dry friction of the body morning and evening. I repeat this regimen in the same manner several times, and, most generally, the attacks of hysteria will have entirely disappeared at the end of a year or

eighteen months. Of course these patients remain exposed to worries, irritabilities, vexations, passing jealous manifestations, restraint of rules, atmospheric influences, etc., but the attacks do not show themselves, or appear very rarely. The remedy, moreover, is so highly regarded, that the women themselves, when they feel *ennervé*, as they express it, prescribe it and take it until they feel relieved.

Why has Henry Mure's syrup, which has been attended with such immense success in the treatment of epilepsy in Europe and America, not been placed at the head of anti-hysterical medicines? It succeeds, I affirm, in nine-tenths of the cases, except when given in relatively weak and intermittent doses. Whilst this remedy, so efficacious, has only determined the cure of a great number of epileptics by the aid of large and long continued doses, it does not follow, on the contrary, that good results may be obtained in hysteria by means of a lesser dose and a usage not continued. This, I believe, has never been said, which is a matter of considerable practical importance.

The association of different bromides among themselves and the combinations of certain therapeutic agents with the bromide of potassium, fail in their effects constantly. The bromide of potassium, moreover, is very rarely obtained pure. That which justifies the esteem of Henry Mure's syrup, is, that physicians all over the country know that the medicine contains a bromide exceptionally pure; that each teaspoonful represents exactly 50 centigrammes of salt, and that this preparation, applied to the treatment of nervous convulsions, has performed everywhere the most successful cures. There is nothing so successful as success. Henry Mure's syrup may be obtained in all good pharmacies and from the manufacturer, M. Henry Mure, pharmacist, Pont St. Esprit (Gard.), France.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of THE CANADA LANCET.

SIR—In this neighborhood we have not escaped the "bane of society and curse of the profession," viz.: the "Quack." We have one who has flourished in our midst for several years, and who not content with being allowed to practice undisturbed seeks on every occasion to establish a practice for himself by assailing and libelling the reputation of