

Jewellers' Protective Association. This body pursues like an avenging Nemesis anyone who robs or cheats its members. Let the manufacturers of pharmaceutical preparations who suffer from the evils of substitution, form a like union, and charge its agents with the duty of bringing to justice the perpetrators of the fraud of substitution. The Penal Code and the Pharmacy Act both afford excellent laws for the punishment of these criminals. The Board of Pharmacy is not sufficiently equipped to enforce the provisions of the law to this end, and the Health Department is too busily engaged in fighting disease to cope with the evil. The formation of such a union as I have indicated, however, and the punishment of a few offenders would soon stop the practice. The mere publication of a few instances of fraud, giving the names and addresses of the dishonest pharmacists, would go far towards suppressing substitution, for the public is quick to discover and shun the druggist who is considered unreliable and unscrupulous.

Meetings of Medical Societies.

LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society was held in the Medical College on Monday evening, 13th Nov. the President, Dr. Hodge, in the chair.

Dr. Arnott read a paper on

URÆMIA.

I shall not discuss the various theories regarding this condition. For whether the active poison be urea or ammonia, or a combination of poisons, or whether the symptoms be due to œdema of the brain, we believe that the original cause is insufficient elimination by the kidneys.

Our ideas of uræmia are mostly associated with convulsions and coma, yet these are only a small number of the symptoms produced, and I shall proceed to review and illustrate from cases in my practice some of the commonest of these. In the selection of these cases I shall endeavour to convey some practical lessons.

Uræmic convulsions sometimes occur with such terrible suddenness as to take us completely by surprise. Many examples of this will occur to

your minds, but I shall beg your attention to one. W.D., aged about forty-five, a very hard drinker, mostly of whiskey. He had been ploughing all day, and returned to the house after putting away his horses. At tea he complained of not feeling well. In a few minutes he was in convulsions, from which he only regained consciousness once or twice, and in six hours from the time he was first taken he was dead. Urine drawn from the bladder was loaded with albumen.

There is no relation between the amount of albumen and the frequency of convulsions. I remember one lady who had convulsions with only a small quantity of albumen, and yet a year or more afterwards, when her urine was frequently seventy-five per cent. of albumen, her principal symptom was an intense headache. This I account for by the different degree of sensibility of the nervous system.

There is considerable danger that uræmic convulsions may be mistaken for epilepsy. To you that may seem impossible, yet I have seen a half dozen of the best men in this country make that very mistake. In that case when the urine was examined, the specific gravity proved to be only 1.008. We cannot be too careful to examine the urine of persons who have become subject to epileptic seizures in advanced life.

Uræmic coma may be mistaken for hæmorrhage of the brain or embolism. Generally a careful examination will reveal hemiplegia; but cases occur in which, owing to the profound stupor, a diagnosis cannot be made with certainty. If the urine drawn from the bladder be found to have a very low specific gravity, or to be loaded with albumen, it assists the diagnosis to a certain extent.

After scarlatina uræmic coma may creep on so insidiously as not to attract attention until it is profound. I saw a case, in consultation, which the doctor, on the way, assured me was doing splendidly, as he had left him sleeping a few hours before. When we arrived at the house he was sleeping—so soundly that we could not wake him till we had given him an enema and got him into a profuse perspiration.

We are not in much danger of forgetting uræmia in cases characterized by coma or convulsions, but in some of its minor manifestations I am afraid we all at times pass it over.