

acts on the zinc, and free copper, which is deposited on the copper plate. In all batteries for medical use the cells are arranged for intensity, the zinc of one being connected with the copper of the next, as in the cut. The electromotor force of the gravity cell is 1 volt. This cell is much used for the so called constant batteries, the name being given because they will run for several months with very little, or, practically, no attention.

#### The Use of Galvanism in the Treatment of Insanity.

We take this and the following note from the *New York Medical Journal* for Dec. 10th:

Winglesworth (in the *Journal of Mental Science*) has employed galvanism to a considerable extent in certain phases of insanity. Flexible plate electrodes were employed, the cathode being placed on the forehead, and the anode on the nape of the neck. From his own observations he concludes that, while the use of galvanism to the head is a procedure which is certainly not going to revolutionize the treatment of insanity, this agent is nevertheless capable of doing much good in certain selected cases, and by its judicious employment we may every now and then cure cases which would otherwise drift into hopeless chronicity. The class of cases which offers the best field for the employment of this agent is that which includes examples of mental stupor and torpor—cases that are grouped under the specific designations of *melancholia attonita* and so-called acute dementia.

#### The Therapeutic Value of Currents of Great Intensity.

("Franklinization").—Eulenburg ("Neurologisches Centralblatt") has employed the static current in seventy-four selected cases, including different neuroses. Six of these were permanently cured, thirty-three much improved, while in thirty-five cases other varieties of treatment were called into requisition. The most favorable effects were observed in neurasthenic conditions, complicated with cerebral symptoms (insomnie), as well as in various forms of headache. Neuralgias of the trigeminus and occipital nerves were also benefitted. In sciatica and intercostal neuralgia the application of the static current was found not only of a certain amount of benefit, but specially convenient for the operator, as the removal of the patient's

clothes is unnecessary. Eulenburg is inclined to doubt the statements regarding the effectiveness of the static current in hysterical and hystero-epileptic cases, feeling confident that the favorable phenomena observed are largely due to physical causes. Finally, Eulenburg expresses the opinion that static electricity as a factor in neurotherapeutics is destined to maintain itself. To be sure, its field is somewhat narrow, but, when employed by those experienced in its manipulation, results may be obtained with reasonable precision.

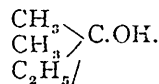
#### Pharmaceutical Notes on some Synthetical Compounds recently introduced into Medicine.

We take the following notes on new synthetical drugs from the paper read by Mr. H. Helling before the British Pharmaceutical Conference and reported in the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions* for September per *Therapeutic Gazette*:

*Acetphenetidin*, paracetphenetidin,  $\text{NH}(\text{COH}_3)\text{C}_6\text{H}_4.\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5$ . This antipyretic has only been in use for a short time, but the results hereto obtained with it are described as excellent. Hinsberg and Kast have shown that a dose of 3 to 8 grains is able to reduce the temperature of the human body by  $3.6^\circ \text{F}$ ., and the experiments carried out in the clinic of Professor von Bamberger, of Vienna, have only tended to confirm the favorable accounts of the discoveries. It appears to be perfectly devoid of secondary effects and fully able to bear comparison with all other febrifuges.

It is a greyish-white crystalline powder, without smell, producing a slightly pungent after-taste; it is practically insoluble in water, but dissolves readily in alcohol. It is advantageously prescribed in the form of powders containing the above-mentioned dose, since from its tastelessness it is readily taken by patients.

*Amylene hydrate*, tertiary amyllic alcohol, dimethyl ethylcarbinol,



Only a few weeks ago this compound was recommended by Professor Jolly and Von Mehrling as a soporific, in which class of remedies it appears to have taken a prominent place. Before applying it to patients numerous experiments on animals had been carefully carried out. A dose of one drachm is sufficient to produce sleep for six or