

fore this gland is overfunctionating. W. G. MacCallum, of Johns Hopkins University, agreed that Graves' disease might be due to such a cause, and thought that therefore the giving of an extract of parathyroids might be beneficial. He had tried it in one case with great benefit for a time, but the patient unfortunately died of an intercurrent tuberculosis.

Recently, Dr. J. J. Walsh, of New York (*American Medicine*, May 25th, 1905) reports some cases in which he used this treatment without any benefit. Since then Dr. MacCallum writes (*American Medicine*, June 10th, 1905) that he has examined the parathyroids in nine cases of Graves' disease and has found them to be practically normal in all. He concludes that "after all there is no sufficient basis for the idea that insufficiency of the parathyroids plays any important part in the production of the symptoms of exophthalmic goitre."

Seeing then that we are so powerless as yet to check the excessive secretion of the thyroid gland or to neutralize the abnormal amount of the secretion in the blood, it only remains for us in most cases to treat the symptoms as they arise. And by so doing we do not merely mark time until such time as the natural return to health is likely to occur. By placing the patient at rest, soothing the nervousness, etc., we undoubtedly hasten this return to health, and even may in some cases so alter the balance as to cause a return to health when otherwise it might not occur, and thus may make the difference between life and death.

An immense number of medicinal remedies have been used from time to time, and it would serve no useful purpose to enumerate them here.

Of those that I have personal experience of, the most generally useful have been belladonna and the bromides. Under moderate doses of these the patients usually quickly become less nervous. Ramsay (*Glasgow Med. Jour.*, 1891), after a very exhaustive study of the subject, came to the conclusion that belladonna is the most valuable drug that we can employ.

Theoretically, digitalis and ergot should do good, by toning up the blood vessels and slowing the rapid heart, but though some good results have been reported, on the whole they are disappointing, and digitalis often seems to do harm and is here peculiarly apt to disturb the stomach. Strophanthus is not so open to this objection.

The employment of preparations of iron has given rise to much divergence of opinion, some thinking that it is most