

than the presence of chronic parametritis could be proved (even after she had been confined with two more children), and neuralgic affection of the muscular insertions along the lower dorsal and the lumbar spinous processes. Now and then she would also, when slightly out of health, be attacked with hysteric symptoms belonging to her brain and pneumogastric nerve. After this last confinement she appeared feeble and more irritable than ordinarily; and on several days in the afternoon and evening, her temperature would rise to 103° and 104° without my being able to diagnose a tangible cause. She was feeble, irritable, sleepless, and had crying spells and other hysteric symptoms. She was sleepless to an embarrassing degree, neither quinia nor morphia relieving her of this symptom. Three-quarters of a grain of morphia, administered in the course of twelve hours, procured no sleep, but left her, for about twenty hours after the last dose of three-eighths of a grain, more hysterical and restless and sleepless than before. In addition, a contracted pupil, dry tongue, and delirium, showed the dose of morphia she had taken to be larger than she could well tolerate. In this condition, on the sixth evening at 9 p. m. (after a dose of forty grains of bromide of potassium had been also used on the fifth with no effect or very little,) a dose of two scruples of hydrate of chloral was given internally, in two tablespoonfuls of water. Within twenty minutes she was asleep, awoke after three hours to drink water, fell asleep again; and, although getting awake from time to time, passed a good night, felt rested and satisfied in the morning, had no headache, a better appetite than any previous day, and no more hysteric attacks.

V. A lady of 48, of Brooklyn, I saw in consultation a week ago. She suffers from pulmonary consumption. There is a dull percussion sound, both anteriorly and posteriorly, over her right lung, and bronchial respiration, and partially roughened respiratory murmur, on the left side. For six weeks past, after having been hoarse for a long time, she has lost her voice from laryngeal ulcerations, which appear to be very extensive, inasmuch as the usual form, in such cases, of pharyngeal degeneration has already developed itself. She coughs a great deal; has pains belonging to the larynx, pleura, and diaphragm; and, partly from general distress, partly from fever and cough, sleeps but little and interruptedly. Morphia has relieved her for some time, but its effect, although the doses have been increased, is ceasing to be satisfactory. She took a dose of forty grains of the hydrate dissolved in but little water, on the evening of the 24th of October, and passed a better night than before, in spite of the copious laryngeal, tracheal, and bronchial secretion and cough, waking her a number of times. A single disagreeable symptom, however, noticed, viz., pain in the ears. The patient complained bitterly, evidently from the effect of the remedy on the mucous membrane of the throat. Undoubtedly the pungent taste and effect of the agent might have been reduced or obviated either by the addition of more water, or by its mixture with a mucilage. Of this patient, no news has reached me since.

This much is sure in my mind—that Dr. Liebreich need add no other discovery to this one, to deserve

the gratitude of both the profession and mankind for his valuable addition to our therapeutical treasures. I hope I have impressed the gentlemen who have so long listened to me with the necessity of studying the subject of this paper; and I do not hesitate to express my belief that there is a great future in store for the hydrate of chloral.

For future investigations I propose the following questions:—

Why is it that Richardson has met with vomiting, while neither Liebreich nor myself has been troubled with this disagreeable symptom?

Will hydrate of chloral reduce the temperature of a sick animal (say in pyæmia) as surely and steadily, in large or small doses, as in the healthy one, and is it promising of effect as a febrifuge, perhaps even happier than that of quinia.

What is the proper antidote in case of poisoning; and will the induced current prove such antidote, as some observations in my experiments appear to show?

All of these questions I take the liberty of here proposing, for your consideration and study; and if I should succeed in future in answering them, or one of them, myself, I shall feel but too happy to be permitted to state my results here, for your further examination and judgment.

Further Experiments with Chloral; its great value as a Therapeutical Agent, especially in Chorea.

Chloral is still the great scientific attraction here, and I believe there is scarcely an hospital physician, or surgeon, or chemist in Paris who is not more or less experimenting therewith at present. Every week fresh results of experiments are brought forward, either at the Academy of Medicine, or that of Sciences; and indeed the last sitting of this latter Society was unusually interesting from a medical point of view, on account of the variety of communications on the subject *à la mode*. The results of the meeting was much in favor of Liebreich's views of the properties of chloral, and of its transformation into chloroform when once in the human organism. M. Bouchut's memoir, which formed the main feature of the sitting, clearly expresses these views; whilst M. Bussy, one of the Academicians, announced a forthcoming communication from M. Personne (a French chemist of great distinction), whose researches on chloral have also turned out in favor of Liebreich's statements. M. Dumas wound up the discussion by a few words of encouragement, most eloquently expressed, to the young medical generation. There was a field, he said, for young medical workers! Two substances, namely chloroform and chloral, which at the time of their discovery a purely theoretical point of view have since taken a place among the most precious therapeutical agents: chloroform for surgery, and chloral for medicine. How many other compound bodies were doubtless in the same case.

These last communications on chloral at the Academy of Sciences have been the more favorable to Liebreich's views, as all the preceding ones had more or less contradicted them. If you remember, I mentioned at the time that Demarquay, who was the first to experiment here with chloral, question-