

nite, chloroform or belladonna, of hot fomentations, turpentine stupes and counter-irritants.

The external application of tincture of opium with moist heat is often of great use in the milder forms of neuralgia. It is important that the medical man should himself apply the fomentations in the first instance, and take as little for granted in the sick room as possible. The endermic application of morphia can not be used where the disease is very paroxysmal, or the attacks of pain very brief, but in protracted cases, for instance in gastrodynia, it is often of great value. Blister a space of the size of a five-shilling piece, remove the raised epidermis and sprinkle over the surface a powder containing one grain of morphia to four grains of white sugar; then apply a simple dressing. Three or four powders may be applied in this way on successive mornings, or at still shorter intervals. There is generally a little smarting pain at the time of the application, but soon after relief generally ensues. In the anomalous pains of the back accompanying uterine and ovarian derangement, the endermic application of morphia to the lumbar or sacral regions is often of decided service.—*London Lancet*.

MATERIA MEDICA.

ANARCOTINE.

In "The Indian Annals of Medicine," for September, 1861, there is an elaborate and able report addressed by Dr. A. Garden, of Ghazepore, to the Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, on the therapeutic uses of anarcotine, tabulating in various forms the results of its employment in nearly 700 cases of intermittent fevers. Turning to our systems and dispensaries, we find it briefly noticed that this substance has been employed as an antiperiodic by Dr. Roots and Dr. O'Shaughnessy. This brief notice has, it appears, been wholly overlooked or neglected in this country; and yet, as we shall show, anarcotine possesses therapeutic properties well worthy of the attention of British practitioners.

It is generally known, that one of the crystalline constituents of opium received from chemists the name of "narcotine," under an erroneous impression that it was the narcotic principle of that drug. So far from this being the case, it has not the slightest claim to that title; and, consequently, it is very properly proposed to prefix the privative letter *a* to the name, and henceforth designate it as *anarcotine*.

Referring to Sir W. O'Shaughnessy's original statement, we find him saying:—

"I have now employed the narcotine in sixteen cases of remittent fever, and such is my opinion of the efficacy of the remedy, that in instances of fever, intermittent and remittent, in ordinary healthy subjects, and in whom there is no complication of severe organic disease, I give it with the full expectation of arresting the next periodic return of the fever. I have seen the result follow in ten of the cases of the fever alluded to. I consider narcotine a more powerful antiperiodic than quinine. The remedy does not act silently. I have observed a degree of general heat follow its use in the first instance, and subsequently perspiration, so that it appears to excite in the system a salutary and powerful counteraction, as to stop the morbid concentration that issues in fever. I have not observed narcotine to lead to organic disturbance in the cases in which I have used it. In short, even from my scanty experience, I consider the remedy an invaluable one."

To his own testimony Sir William added the experience of several practitioners, who speak in the highest terms of its value as an antiperiodic, especially appli-