

WARM FOMENTATIONS TO THE HEAD IN CASES OF UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.—Dr. Koehler (*Allg. Med. Central-Zeitung*, No. 1, 1879). (*Brit. Med. Journal*), states that he has for the last seven years, in cases of uterine hæmorrhage, applied warm fomentations to the head to prevent anæmia of the brain, and also to the heart. Hot sand-bags are also very efficient, and the patients often will bear sand which is so hot that it can scarcely be touched with the hand. As soon as the fomentation or bag has been applied, consciousness is restored; the pulse grows stronger; the patient herself states that she feels better, that the ringing in the ears has ceased and that she likes the appliance. As soon as it becomes cooler, she wishes it to be renewed. Dr. Koehler has, he says, saved patients even in most dangerous cases of hæmorrhage by this proceeding, by which the physician never loses time, as the fomentations may be watched and renewed by any one. This method has been found equally efficient in anæmia caused by epistaxis, hæmorrhages produced by wounds, etc.

THE SYMPTOM OF TENDON REFLEX IN LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA.—Westphal and Erb have described two forms of reflex tendinous phenomena as occurring in the early stage of locomotor ataxia. Thus if in a healthy person the ligamentum patellæ of the loosely hanging leg, or the tendon of the quadriceps femoris, be struck a smart blow with the side of the hand a more or less violent kick will follow, while if the tendon of Achilles be struck in the same manner the heel will be raised. In locomotor ataxia it is claimed that these phenomena are absent. Dr. A. M. Hamilton (*Boston Med. Jour.*, Dec. 27, '78,) reports eight cases of this disease. In these cases one-half present this symptom, but in the other half the tendon reflex is not only present, but in some cases markedly increased. Thus it would appear that this symptom is of less value than has been claimed. But when it is present coupled with the so-called lightning pains, plantar anæsthesia and dimness of vision, it has great force, even in view of Dr. Hamilton's observations.—*Detroit Lancet*.

CHLOROFORM NARCOSIS (*Louisv. Med. News*, Nov. 30, '78).—Wachsmuth, of Berlin, asserts that much of the danger from the administration of chloroform may be averted by adding to it twenty per cent. of oil of turpentine, which, he says, stimulates the lungs and thus protects them against the great enemy of chloroform narcosis—pulmonary paralysis.—*Ibid*.

PROPYLAMINE IN CHOREA.—(*Le Mouvement Medical. Med. Record*, Nov. 30, 1878).—Dr. Parkhauser recommends propylamine as a prompt and effective remedy for chorea. He claims that it effects a cure in three or four days; relapses are

cured in one or two days. He gives it in doses of from 15 to 19 grains per diem. This quantity is dissolved in four ounces of water and one ounce of syrup, and a spoonful is given every hour. In his hands, three or four grammes, administered in as many days, have invariably produced a complete cure.—*Ibid*.

POISONING BY CHLORATE OF POTASH.—A case of poisoning by chlorate of potash is reported in the *Archiv der Pharmacie*. It occurred in the family of a Dr. Kauffmann, who had taken it home and had given small quantities of it daily to his three children as a prophylactic against the diphtheria at that time prevalent in the vicinity. During his absence from home, his children began to play "doctor," and each swallowed about 14 or 15 grams (nearly 35ss). The younger, a girl 2½ years, began to vomit and died in about 7 hours, of gastritis. The salt was in a crystalline state, and as it is only soluble in 16 parts of water, it here acted as a violent irritant.

The somnolence of this child was the most striking symptom, in addition to the continued vomiting. From the very beginning, until death, it was in so lethargic a state as to manifest no pain. Physicians and druggists are so much inclined to consider this salt as comparatively harmless, that such cases as the foregoing deserve careful attention.

Another case of a somewhat similar nature is mentioned in the same journal. A young man complaining of hoarseness had been advised to take chlorate of potash. He bought some of the salt and after taking a few doses was compelled to desist on account of the vomiting and pain induced. On two subsequent occasions he had recourse to the same agent for the same malady, but it produced a similar effect, which did not pass away until he again discontinued the medicine.

CHEWSTICK.—This is a natural tooth-brush furnished to the Jamaicans by the stem of the *Gouania Somingensis*. A portion being broken off and chewed, its fibres are thrown out in a brush-like form, which the inhabitants use for a tooth-brush. The substance of the plant furnishes a pleasant, bitter, saponaceous froth when rubbed around the teeth.

A DOCTOR must be a mechanic, a nurse, a cook, a chemist, a pharmacist, an anatomist, a physiologist; he must have the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, the independence of Diogenes, the philanthropy of Howard.—*Dr. Gibbons, in Pacific Med. and Surg. Journal*.

GOUGH's opinion of alcohol as a medicine is that "it is very like sitting down on a hornet's nest—stimulating but not nourishing."