

respectively, are by far the most perfect known—so far as their amount goes in each case. In every known form of artificial illumination, the light rays are accompanied by a larger proportion of invisible ones—which necessarily means a great waste of energy. Nature does not squander her resources in that way.—*Medical Press.*

CAUSES AND TREATMENT OF HICCOUGH.

Smith (The Clinique) discusses the causes of hiccough under three heads: (1) Those due to direct irritation of the phrenic nerve, as occurs in the case of mediastinal tumors aneurisms of the arch, pneumonic or pleuritic inflammation pressure from pleuritic effusion, etc.; (2) those of a reflex nature, as in diseases of the urinary organs, the uterus and the intestinal tract, and the liver, and the irritation of biliary or renal calculi, irritation of the pharynx, esophagus or stomach, and diseases of the peritoneum; (3) those of central origin, as occurs in hysteria, local, brain or spinal diseases, blood poisoning (as in the fevers, cholera, dysentery, etc.), after emotional excitement, and from the general anæmia of nerve centres after hemorrhage. In the majority of cases, however, the doctor, found the condition to depend upon gastric irritation, usually due to the ingestion of acid fruits and drinks and the formation of gas. Various remedies are suggested, with or without alkaline drinks, peppermint water or brandy. Some cases are relieved by hot drinks, others by cold. Strychnin and nitrite of amyl are also occasionally effective. If these remedies fail, he advises resort to opium, morphin or the bromids while gastric lavage and the ether spray applied to the abdomen or upper cervical region are suggested remedies. The induction of sneezing and the wearing of a tight leather belt are measures with which the writer is not familiar.

A method practiced in France is to place the patient supine over a thick bolster so that the head hangs down and the thorax arches up. Rhythmic tractions on the tongue (Laborde) cut short and would often arrest a paroxysm in one of his patients. Extreme cases should theoretically be attended with good results from the use of enemas or infusions of normal salt solutions as well as from the administration of pure oxygen. At present chloroform constitutes the court of last resort, but failing, he would seek permission for section of the phrenic nerve.—*Charlotte Medical Journal*