

mania, especially when the mania is of the noisy, destructive, and incoherent kind. Cases of this kind run nearly always a short and lethal course. The prognosis in this patient's case is favorable, despite the severity and long-continuance of the disease.

Treatment.—As you will readily understand, the remedies that have been recommended in this disease are not few in number. Iron, quinine, digitalis and belladonna have all been lauded as having a directly curative action. It is very questionable, however, whether any of them possess this power. Of the four, digitalis is the one that is most commonly prescribed. It has, strange as it may seem, little or no power in slowing the heart's action. Iron, even for the relief of the anæmia that is often present in this disease, seldom does good, but frequently injury. There is no drug in my experience whose action is so beneficial in exophthalmic goitre as ergot. We know that when given in large doses, ergot acts in the following way on the heart and circulation: 1st, it slows the action of the heart; 2nd, it contracts the arteries; and, 3rd, it increases the blood pressure. How it acts in this disease I am unable to say, but the first sign that is noticed of its beneficial effects is a slowing of the circulation. From a considerable experience of its use in this disease, I have found that after two or three weeks' use, a pulse that is constantly beating at 130 or 140 is brought down to from 110 to 120. As the drug is continued, the swelling of the thyroid gradually diminishes also, and the protrusion of the eyeballs gradually recedes. To obtain marked amelioration, it is necessary to give it for at least three months. I have reported* three cases of exophthalmic goitre treated by ergot, where the results were very satisfactory. In all a cure resulted. In a disease which tends in many cases to spontaneous cure, it is necessary to be very cautious in coming to a conclusion as to the virtue of any drug that may be used. Whether ergot has a directly curative power remains still to be proved. I think, however, that I am quite justified in saying that of all drugs we possess, it is the only one which seems to act with marked benefit

* *Canadian Practitioner*, Sept., 1881.