

distressing symptom has been (*Lancet*) relieved by Mr. Lennox Browne, by first scraping the diseased surface—after having applied cocaine—and then touching it with a strong solution of lactic acid (20 to 60 per cent.) daily. At the end of three weeks the dysphagia was entirely relieved.

ATTEMPT TO REMOVE A NEEDLE FROM THE HEART.—In the *Brit. Med. Jour.* is a report of the following case from the recent German Surgical Congress: A student of the Polytechnic School had endeavored to kill himself by driving a needle into his heart. Though the needle entered the heart, the attempt failed. The needle could be distinctly felt. The pericardium was opened, but the needle was not found; a second operation was undertaken, and the operator was successful in seizing the needle, but failed to extract it, so that it slipped completely into the heart, where it could be felt. The operation having been abandoned at this stage, the patient made a good recovery.

DIET IN BRIGHT'S DISEASE.—J. Milner Fothergill gives (*Journal of Reconstructives*) the following for a patient with Bright's disease:

Breakfast: Oatmeal or hominy porridge, hominy fritters, followed by a little fish with plenty of butter to it; or a slice of fat bacon or pork. Fat, fish or farinaceous matters. Hominy and fat pork for the less affluent.

Lunch or supper: Mashed potatoes well buttered. Other vegetables well buttered. A milk pudding made without an egg. Biscuits of various kinds and butter, with a nip of rich cheese.

Dinner: Soup, containing plenty of vegetable matter, broken biscuit, or sago, or vermicelli. Cream in lieu of so much strong stock should lurk in the soup tureen; especially in white soup. This should be followed by fish in some form; a course of vegetables, as stewed celery, chopped carrots, a boiled onion, leeks, nicely prepared potatoes, as "browned potatoes," a la Marion Harland, asparagus, or "scalloped tomatoes" and corn or "boiled corn." Then should follow apple-bread pudding, Maud's pudding, bread and raisin pudding: and, if the digestion can be trusted, roly-poly pudding, sweet pudding and fruit pies. Stewed fruit, with creoled rice, rice milk or other milk pudding is good, or better still, cream. Then

comes the biscuit, or crackers and butter. Dessert with its many fruits should never be omitted.

MORPHIA MANIA.—M. Ball (*Gaz. des Hospitaux*) gives the following directions for treating patients with morphia mania:

1st. Place the patient in a private hospital, where the indispensable surveillance of a physician can be exercised every moment.

2nd. Suppress more or less completely the use of morphia.

3rd. Relieve the action of the heart by timely injections of sparteine, to which morphia should be joined if the accidents become too menacing.

FEHLING TEST TABLETS.—These have been known to indicate the presence of sugar when none existed in the urine (*Druggist's Circular*). It is claimed that this error is brought about by the substitution by some manufacturers, of the alkaline carbonate of potash, which is said to be more effective in preserving the peculiar blue color of the tablets.

PRICKLY HEAT.—A writer in the *St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.* says a two per cent. solution of sulphate of copper applied to the skin and allowed to dry on will cure in a few days. It should be used night and morning.

IMPROVED COMPOUND LICORICE POWDER.—Dr. Oxley referring (*Lancet*) to the severe griping sometimes produced in young patients by the administration of the Pulv. Glyc. Co. of the B. P. suggests as an improvement the following formula: Senna and liquorice-root, of each 2 parts; anise fruit and sulphur, of each 1 part; sugar, $5\frac{3}{4}$ parts; ginger, $\frac{1}{4}$ part. He says, "this altered preparation is quite as satisfactory in its laxative properties, is less liable to gripe and is as pleasant to take as the officinal powder," and suggests its trial in cases where the original produces unpleasant effects.

DIPHTHERIA HOSPITAL.—A movement is on foot to establish a Diphtheria Hospital in New York. The scheme has the approval of the profession in that city. A special ambulance is to be provided for the conveyance of the patients from their homes to the hospital.

THE PROFESSION IN GERMANY.—A warning has been issued at Berlin, (*Med. Press*), and sent by