

could death be attributed directly to the operation. We are informed that the return of the attacks during the first few days following an operation by no means proves that the surgical procedure has been a failure. The paralysis produced by the excision of a diseased portion of the motor area was found to be merely transitory, probably because this area had ceded its functions to neighboring, healthy portions of the cortex.

They draw the following conclusions:

1. Surgical interference is advisable in those cases of partial epilepsy in which not more than one or, at the utmost, two years have elapsed since the traumatic injury or the beginning of the disease which has given rise to the convulsive seizures.

2. In cases of depression or other injury of the skull, surgical interference is warranted even though a number of years have elapsed; but the prospect of recovery is brighter the shorter the period of time since the injury.

3. Simple trephining may prove sufficient in a number of cases, and particularly in those in which there is an injury to the skull or in which a cystic condition is the main cause of the epilepsy.

4. Excision of cortical tissue is advisable if the epilepsy has lasted but a short time, and if the symptoms point to a strictly circumscribed focus of disease.

5. Since such cortical lesions are often of a microscopical character, excision should be practised even if the tissue appears to be perfectly normal at the time of operation; but the greatest caution should be exercised in order to make sure that the proper area is removed.

6. Surgical interference for the cure of epilepsy associated with infantile cerebral palsies may be attempted, particularly if too long an interval has not elapsed since the beginning of the palsy.

7. In cases of epilepsy of long standing, in which there is in all probability a widespread degeneration of the association-fibres, every surgical procedure is useless.—*Review of Medicine.*

ALCOHOL AND POPULAR MEDICINES.

In the report of the Massachusetts State Board of Health are found the following statements of the percentage of alcohol as an ingredient of nerve stimulants and blood purifiers: Ayer's Sarsaparilla 26.2 per cent., Hood's Sarsaparilla 18.8 per cent., Paine's Celery Compound 21 per cent., and Greene's Nervura 17.2. Malt liquors contain from 1.5 to 8 per cent. of alcohol, wines from 8 to 20 per cent., while