

cortex, having little direct effect upon the circulation. Its prolonged use is apt to derange the mental faculties, and may be responsible for the mental impairment which so often follows the so-called gold cure for alcoholism.

Sulfonal and trional are probably more used than any other hypnotics, both by the profession and the laity. Potter, quoting Squibb, says that if it were not for the very evident advantage of sulfonal when used with care and under medical supervision, it would probably either be excluded from practice, or its sale restricted by legislative authority. It produces its hypnotic effect by direct action on the brain cells and upon the red corpuscles by dissolving lecithin. A dose of 1.3 grams (20 grs.) is invariably followed by a large amount of hematoporphyrine in the urine, showing a marked destructive power on the erythrocytes.

The other hypnotics on the market have practically the same effects as those mentioned; that is, they produce sleep by intoxication, and are therefore poisonous. The physiologic action of the bromids and of chloral come nearest to producing normal hypnotic conditions, but their toxic effects are well known.—*Am. Med.*

SENSORY MANIFESTATIONS IN APPENDICITIS.

Disturbances of sensation as symptoms in association with diseases of the abdominal viscera, and particularly of the intestines, are notoriously fallacious, and, if relied upon, misleading. Severe pain may accompany comparatively insignificant lesions, while, on the other hand, mere discomfort may be all that is complained of in presence of the gravest mischief. Tenderness in association with pain is no doubt of greater import, but the individual appreciation of what constitutes tenderness varies within such wide limits that only the experienced observer can safely gauge its degree and significance. As Mr. Mansell Moullin points out in a recent clinical lecture, the abdominal viscera are, for the most part, insensitive to pain, their nerves not being directly connected with the sensorium. The occurrence of pain depends upon circumstances, mostly of mechanical order, which have no necessary and invariable relationship with the particular lesion. It has been remarked that while the intestine itself is singularly insensitive to manipulation, the parietal peritoneum reacts very promptly, as, for instance, when traction