

cal department of St. Batholomew's Hospital he had had opportunities of observing cases of infantile paralysis over long periods of time, and he formulated the following conclusions in respect of the results to be obtained by the electrical treatment: 1. It is important in every case of infantile paralysis which has lasted over four weeks to try electrical treatment, continuing it for six months or a year. 2. It is an exception for a muscle to be so completely destroyed by poliomyelitis as to have no functional fibres left. 3. Great development of the remaining fibres may be gained by persevering stimulation of them. 4. Where the electrical reactions are reduced to the very lowest flicker, or even entirely abolished, some improvement may still be hoped for. 5. Where the electrical relations are not altered in quality it is not good practice to leave the case to take care of itself. 6. Electricity acts only as a stimulant, but it is superior as such to any mechanical treatment by rubbing or massage, though it may advantageously be combined with these. 7. The form of electrical stimulation to be employed is of less importance than persistence in its employment. 8. The induction coil, with or without the bath, is easily arranged for use by the mother or nurse.

STRICHNINE NITRATE HYPODERMICALLY IN ALCOHOLISM.—In an interesting paper by Dr. William B. Breed, of Syracuse, N. Y., read before the Onondaga County Medical Association, the author lays down the following as his conclusions, *Med. News* :—

1. That we have in this drug a remedy that actually, for a period as yet undetermined, removes the desire for alcoholic stimulation in the chronic inebriate, and that *without the least effort on his part*.

2. A remedy that removes the distress and gnawing at the epigastrium, so common upon the withdrawal of alcohol.

3. A remedy that tones up the nervous system, allays the insomnia, the flighty and other bad feelings in the head, the mental disturbances, and the tremulous agitation and uncertainty of voluntary motions due to the withdrawal of stimulants.

4. A remedy that brings back the appetite and general physical vigor of the body.

5. A remedy that temporarily transforms a wholly demoralized creature into a man.

6. A remedy that is of great value in acute attacks of alcoholism.

7. Incidentally, a remedy that is an exceedingly good and safe heart-tonic.

8. More than all, a remedy that exerts a moral influence upon the patient, giving him what he had before wholly lost, to wit: Hope, enthusiasm self-confidence, and courage, where before was despondency, abandonment, and despair; a steady, straightforward gaze, and a bright, youthful expression of the eye, which replaces the shamefaced, sneaking, apologetic air of total depravity of the chronic inebriate.

9. We have in the nitrate of strichnine *not* a remedy that will oblige a man to abstain from drink if he does not want to do so, and such subjects do not deserve one. From the results obtained by the gold cure, the silver-ash cure, the Keeley cure, etc., we may conclude that we have a remedy that is as efficient as any of these, and much safer—a remedy, moreover, that is not secret and can be used by men who know the action of drugs and can use them with discretion and safety to the patient.

There is no reason why the public, which places its life in our hands daily, should be obliged to offer up sacrifices upon the shrine of quackery, when men can be treated privately, safely and efficiently by any family physician, and avoid publicity, danger and expense.

Perhaps we have not a specific; probably not, but we are as near to it as the quacks are; and if such cases of doubtful, if not suspicious, death, as the one which occurred here lately, can be avoided, it is right that the public should, through us, know it and profit by it.

From a scientific standpoint, these few cases afford but scanty statistics from which to draw conclusions. But if, from a humane standpoint, as much good can be done in all cases as in these few, we have done much to better the condition of our fellow-men.

TUBERCULOUS MENINGITIS CURED BY DRAINAGE.—Dr. W. Wallis Ord and Mr. H. F. Waterhouse read notes, *Br. Med. Jour.*, of a case of tuberculous meningitis in a child, aged 5, relieved by drainage. The child was admitted in an apathetic condition, with double optic neuritis. From time to time she uttered a piercing scream,