

ready to secure the services of any lecturer who had knowledge and talent, and both Faraday and Tyndall were supported by him in their efforts to improve the institution over which he presided. He was an elegant scholar and a facile and prolific writer.—[Lancet.

DEATH FROM THE INHALATION OF ETHER.

We have this week to make the sad announcement of a death from the inhalation of ether. It occurred at the Royal South Hants Infirmary. We shall be glad of the comment of Dr. Morgan and of our Boston contemporaries. David Newman, aged 14, a strumous lad, who had suffered from repeated attacks of corneitis, was admitted an in-patient of the above institution on September 25, 1873, under the care of Dr. Lake. On Wednesday, October 1, he was brought into the operating-room in order that iridectomy might be performed. When on the table he exhibited considerable alarm, and required some persuasion before he was induced to lie down. Dr. Griffin having taken charge of the pulse, half an ounce of ether was poured on a sponge contained in a cone of spongio-piline, and the latter was closely applied to the mouth and nose. After a few minutes' inhalation, the ether being nearly exhausted, three drachms more were poured on the sponge. Shortly after commencing to inhale this second quantity he began to struggle violently, getting at length into a state bordering on opisthotonos, his face becoming intensely scarlet. Dr. Griffin then announced that his pulse, which up to this time had been perfectly natural, had become very feeble. The ether was at once discontinued, when, the pulse having improved, Dr. Lake operated, no more ether being administered. At the close of the operation, which occupied only a few seconds in its performance, and before the eye could be bandaged, the pulse became imperceptible, the breathing was suspended, and the countenance livid. The tongue was drawn well out of the mouth and held there, the calves of the legs were vigorously flaccidated, and the chest freely slapped with a wet towel. The effect of these measures was to cause the patient to respire freely, to cry out lustily, and to kick about on the table; but this improvement did not last long,—probably about a minute. The pulse at the wrist did not return, and the breathing again stopped. Artificial respiration—at first by Silvester's method, afterwards by Marshall Hall's—was then had recourse to; at the same time an intermittent current of faradic electricity was passed in the course of the phrenic nerve: this at first caused strong periodic contractions of the respiratory muscles; but after about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour these ceased to respond to the current, and it became evident that life was extinct. These measures were, however, still persevered with for about three-quarters of an hour. At the necropsy, twenty-one hours afterwards, the brain was found to be healthy, and not much congested. The right cavities of the heart were full of dark fluid blood, but the left cavities contained only about a drachm of a similar fluid. The valves

were healthy. The muscular structure, although somewhat flabby, presented no decided evidence of fatty degeneration. The lungs were congested, and of a somewhat bright red colour. The other organs were healthy.—*British Medical Journal*.

A NEW DEPILATORY.

Under the above title Böttger, in the *Memorialien*, says that we possess a new material for destruction of hair, of a most suitable description, in a mixture of one part of crystallised sulphhydrate of sodium with three parts of fine carbonate of lime mixed and reduced to a very fine powder. This mixture can be kept any length of time without alteration in well-closed bottles. When moistened with a drop of water and laid by means of the back of a knife on the part of the skin covered with hair, we see in a few minutes and find the thickest hair turn into a soft mass, easily removed by means of water. If it remain on the part long it will cause a slight irritation of the skin.

THERAPEUTICS.

BELLADONNA IN DIABETES INSIPIDUS.

Dr. Gueneau de Mussy recommended strongly in 1872 the administration of full doses of belladonna, and sulphurous baths, in the treatment of diabetes insipidus. He has twice found belladonna to accidentally produce anuria. Its use in incontinence of urine is well established. Systematically employed in diabetes insipidus, it has diminished the quantity of urine passed from ten pints two pints per diem. The sulphurous baths bring the skin to the relief of the kidneys.

Dr. Madison Marsh, Port Hudson Louisiana, writes to the *Philadelphia Medical Times* a graphic account of his personal experience in the matter, which, like most personal histories from physicians, is worth putting on record. He was at the failure of remedies when, in accordance with Dr. de Mussy's suggestion, he adopted the following following:

R. Ext. Belladonna . . . gra. xvij.
Ft. pil. No. xxxvi.
S. Take one three times a day.

'I took them, with the following physiological effects.

'After three days I felt some dryness of the fauces, but no dilatation of pupils; after continuing eight days, copious evacuations of the bowels, but no abatement of the diuresis. On the twelfth day, after taking a brisk walk, feeling badly, and some impairment of vision, I immediately returned to my room, and found my pupils were much dilated, and, feeling very sick, I took at once about one half grain of morphia. Awoke in the night, found my friends round my bed in considerable alarm, thinking I had been drinking to excess. I told them I was feeling unwell; I had taken some morphia, and I feared an overdose. During that night and till night next day I had a complete ischuria. Commenced retics, nit, pot., squills, spts, ether nit., and digitalis, but for six days the secretion did not exceed six ounces in the twenty-four hours, very high colour-

ed, and apparently very thick. I had no fever, no pain, no appetite, but a general uneasiness. I could not lie in bed or sit up more than fifteen minutes at a time, and felt, as patients have described their feelings to me, as though I was going crazy. This condition of poison from urea, or belladonna, lasted two weeks. At last, fearing constantly coma and death, I sent for a bottle of Wolf's Schiedam Schnaaps, and commenced on it with about two ounces; in half an hour repeated the dose; in an hour more urinated freely. It gave me so much relief and I was so much elated, although I had not been out for two weeks, I mounted my horse and rode to a neighbouring town, fourteen miles distance, and in the trip finished my bottle of Schnaaps. The next day I was sick from the overdose of gin, but urinated freely, and in a few days it assumed its natural colour, and has since been voided to the amount of from ten to fourteen ounces pretty regularly every day. I am disturbed only two or three times during a night, and that, I think, more from habit than excess of urine. I conclude in this case belladonna has effected a very satisfactory cure.

SHORT NOTES.

HYPODERMIC INJECTIONS OF BINODIDE OF MERCURY.

Dr. Ragazzoni has happily modified the formula advocated by Gamberini by adding to the solution of biniodide a little iodide of potassium, which ensures a complete dissolution of the salt. His formula is: biniodide of mercury, half a grain; iodide of potassium, sufficient quantity; distilled water, half a drachm. This liquid injected at once never produces an eschar, if it is introduced properly into the conjunctival subcutaneous tissue; and not the derm.

ACTION OF VALERIAN IN DIABETES.

Dr. Bouchard, of La Charité Hospital, has been making a trial of valerian in diabetes. In diabetes without sugar the medicament did not seem to diminish the quantity of urine, but azoturia was obviously amended. The quantity of urea discharged in the twenty-four hours was much diminished; it decreased from forty-five grammes (about eleven drachms) to ten grammes (two drachms and a half). The same results were observed in diabetes mellitus. In these cases, when there existed azoturia together with glycosuria, the quantity of urea always diminished under the influence of valerian. In some cases there was less excretion of water and sugar; but these effects seemed uncertain. But decrease in the production of urea was invariable. Valerian therefore prevents denutrition, and may be considered a saving medicament (*médicament d'épargne*). Dr. Bouchard, in respect to this latter quality, quotes the custom of various Indian tribes, among whom the warriors, during a month previous to going out to fight, make use of valerian in every shape—in baths, in frictions, and internally. They ascribe to the substance the strength and courage which they feel in going through long marches, fatigue, and privation of food. This property of valerian has been observed in arsenic and bromide of potassium. Dr. Bouchard commenced with weak doses, which he gradually increased to one ounce of extract of valerian without noticing an inconvenience.