

was the last dose given: thus in five days he had taken six drachms and four ounces of sodium bromide. By the afternoon of the fifth day all drowsiness had disappeared and in order to insure a good nights sleep he was given fifteen grains of sulphonal. I might add that the bromide was given in soda water and did not seem to cause the slightest gastric disturbance.

Although the bromide in this case did not cause the deep sleep described by MacLeod (which however he says may not be necessary in order to effect a cure), nevertheless it gave what might be described as a normal sleep, which he certainly had not had for many days. I might add that during the treatment the patient's temperature was sub-normal, varying between 96.2 and 98° Fahr. and I may also say that so far the alcoholic craving has not returned, but how long that will last time only can tell.

### A PECULIAR CASE OF MASTOIDITIS.

By CHAS. TROW, M.D., Toronto.

A male patient æt 58 (but looking much older) some months ago gave a history of catching cold in the head, and the hearing becoming dull he went to a druggist who gave him some "ear oil" and told him to syringe out his ears. He came to me two weeks after the first symptoms with ceruminous plugs in both ears, and after I removed them I found both drums perforated and a considerable amount of pus discharging from the middle ears.

He also had a chronic hypertrophic nasal catarrh, and a chronic suppurative dacryocystitis in the right eye. Within a month he says both ears got well and no discharge; but then he sat by an open window in the draught and caught cold, and when he came to me again, the left ear was standing out from head with a large swelling behind it. I ordered an ice bag applied for a few days and then pus was felt on examination, and as he refused to go to the hospital I made an incision into the soft tissues and drained it out. The swelling went down and the skin healed, but in a few days more the tissues became swollen again and I insisted on a mastoid operation which was performed in the hospital under chloroform, chiselling and scraping out all the diseased bone in the mastoid. The wound was freely sprinkled with iodoform and packed with iodoform gauze. Two days later the patient became insane and the next day persuaded his friends to take him out of the hospital. At his home I dressed the wound and ear, particularly cleansing away all the iodoform thinking possibly it might have caused the mental aberration, and used boracic acid and acetanilid instead. A physician and a surgeon were called in consultation and we all came to the conclusion that the brain lesion was due to senile decay. The patient had been a very steady hard indoor worker never taking a holiday, and looked twenty years older than the age given. However in about six weeks the mental trouble got quite well under tonic treatment, close watching and good nursing. The mastoid and middle ear were healed and well within three weeks from the operation. There had been no pain or rise of temperature or bad symptoms about the ear after the operations; but still the ear lesion seems to have been the cause of the brain trouble.