

or circulation; toxic doses give rise to a transient period of intoxication, with slowing of respiration. Nervous after-effects are observed only after toxic doses, and the stomach tolerates the drug well.

Conclusions.—Bromural acts promptly as hypnotic on frogs, rabbits, and dogs, and has no disagreeable by-effects in therapeutic doses. It shows an elective action on the cerebrum, and leaves the cord and medulla unaffected.

It is relatively harmless, and even large, toxic doses are seldom fatal, though they slow respiration considerably.

It seems to be free from cumulative action and does not irritate the stomach. While therapeutic doses hardly affect the respiration, the first toxic effect produced by somewhat larger doses is a slowing of respiration, with a diminution of the amount of inspired air. The blood-pressure remains normal at this stage. In this respect, the drug differs from all other haloid compounds of the fatty series (chloroform, chloral hydrate, etc.). With these, the disturbance of the vaso-motor centre is the most pronounced by-effect.—Archiv f. experiment. Pathol. u. Pharmacol., lvii, Nos. 5 and 6.

COMPARATIVE POTENCY OF HYOSCINE AND SCOPOLAMINE HYDROBROMIDE IN REFRACTION WORK; EVIDENCE AS TO UNMISTAKABLE NON-IDENTITY.

DR. WENDELL REBER, of Philadelphia, contributes an interesting article upon this subject in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for April 25. His paper was read in the Section on Ophthalmology of the American Medical Association at its Atlantic City meeting in June, 1907. For some unexplainable reason this article, which bears so strongly upon the controversy concerning the alleged identity of hyoscyne and scopolamine, has been withheld from publication for eleven months. This is of peculiar interest, inasmuch as the editor of the Association Journal, during this period, has been asserting and reasserting most vociferously through the columns of that journal that these two alkaloids are both chemically and pharmacodynamically identical. Dr. Reber's conclusions, which were based upon careful experimental work, made upon human beings, are diametrically opposed to the assertions of Dr. G. H. Simmons, Dr. H. C. Wood, Jr., and others in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and its "anvil chorus."

Dr. Reber was led to these experiments by an experience reported in the *American Journal of Pharmacy* in 1889. At that time he found that when one drop of a 1/10-per cent. solution of