

the patients lose weight, and the vital powers are decreased. In long continued feeding cases a dose of morphia at bedtime is often very useful, and in melancholia and emotional insanity with depression it is sometimes invaluable. Acetate of morphia may be injected hypodermically with excellent effects when the patient will not swallow anything: a sleepless, restless, noisy, destructive, unwilling patient can easily be sent to sleep by this means; the moral effect is sometimes most valuable. I have found glycerine the best solvent for salts of morphia, because the solution neither dries up nor crystallizes (10 grains in a drachm.)

*Cannabis Indica*.—Dr. Clouston, before the introduction of chloral, most carefully investigated the effects of the various remedies then known, and ascertained that a combination of tincture of *Cannabis Indica* and bromide of potassium (half a drachm of each) was efficacious in allaying excitement and diminishing temperature in 90 per cent. of the patients to whom he gave the mixture, while the appetite and digestion were, so far from being interfered with, so good that the patients gained in weight, although the treatment of some cases was continued during nine months. This experience of Dr. Clouston is still important, inasmuch as we may not always be able to use chloral, and may in some cases wish to diminish excitement during the daytime and to limit the employment of chloral for obtaining sleep at night.

*Bromide of Potassium* has been already referred to. It remains to mention that it is a most valuable remedy for epilepsy. Dr. Clouston gave 25 grains of it thrice daily for two years to seventeen epileptics, with great improvement in their condition.

*Iodide of Potassium* in ʒj. doses has sometimes remarkably benefitted the milder cases of puerperal and climacteric insanity. In syphilitic cases, and where, we presume, there is some thickening of the cerebral membranes, the iodide, steadily given in full doses, does much good.

*Ergot of Rye*.—In the treatment of recurrent mania, chronic mania with lucid intervals, and in epileptic mania, Dr. Crichton Browne has found ergot of rye "almost uniformly efficacious in reducing excitement, in shorten-

ing attacks, in widening the intervals between them, occasionally in altogether preventing their recurrence, and in averting that perilous exhaustion by which excitement is so often succeeded." He gave the liquid extract in ʒj. or the tincture in ʒi—ij. doses every four hours when epileptic violence was existing, and says, "It exerts a prompt and energetic effect."

*Digitalis* is frequently found singularly useful in destructive cases, especially in general paresis. It is advisable, notwithstanding the large doses of drugs tolerated, as a rule, by the insane, to begin this in doses of not more than *m x.* of the tincture to a man, or *m vi.* to a woman; it is easy to watch its effects and to increase the doses if necessary and advisable to *m xxx.*, *lx.*, or even *xc.* Dr. Lockhart Robertson has found a combination of digitalis with morphia very efficacious in occasional violent attacks of excitement.

*Calabar Bean*.—In the excitement of general paresis, Dr. Crichton Browne has ascertained that the extract, in doses of gr.  $\frac{1}{4}$  to gr. i. had a rapid and powerful calmative action. Observation of the condition of the pupils will be a valuable guide in the indications for the administration of the *physostigma venenosum*.

*Whisky*, in four-ounce doses, was found by Dr. Clouston to lower the temperature very much, to slightly quicken the pulse, and in many asthenic cases to calm the patients. Dr. Yellowlees writes, "In many cases a liberal addition of stimulants is the best sedative we can give."

*Beef Tea* was also examined as a therapeutic agent by Dr. Clouston, who observed that it slightly lowers the temperature, lowers and strengthens the pulse.

In the foregoing sketch I have endeavoured to bring together, in a very condensed form, some of the more salient points in the treatment of lunacy, as pursued by the most recent investigators. Had I been granted more time for the reading of this paper I would have outlined many other and important topics relating to the subject, such as the advantages as well as the drawbacks of domestic treatment, the merits of asylums, the relations between physical states and mental symptoms, the latency of disease in the insane, the removal of causes of