

faculty of our country. I therefore lay before you, in brief, facts gathered concerning this disease during my stay on the western coast of Africa.

Through the kindness of Dr. Robert Smith, colonial surgeon at Freetown, Sierra Leone, I was enabled to see in the hospitals under his charge a number of cases of lethargus.

As the name implies, the principal—and, in fact, only—symptom that presents itself is lethargy, and one case is essentially a stereotype of all.

The patient, usually a male adult, is seized without any premonitory symptoms with a sensation of drowsiness, which continues rapidly to increase in spite of all efforts to throw it off, until he sinks into a profound and seemingly natural sleep. This continues for about twenty-one days, when death takes place. Throughout the course of the disease the patient preserves a quiet and peaceful countenance, may be easily aroused for a short time, will take nourishment, and generally answer a few questions in a perfectly rational manner.

The pulse, respiration, and temperature remain normal throughout, the pupil is neither dilated nor contracted to any noticeable extent, and the urine and feces are voided with comparative regularity. With the exception of the abnormal tendency to sleep, nothing exists to denote disease.

Many careful post-mortem examinations have been made by competent men, but nothing of an abnormal character has been found. Dr. Smith informed me that every remedy that could possibly be of any avail had been used without any apparent beneficial effect.

They sleep on, and quietly glide into eternity in spite of professional skill.—*Medical World.*

BROMIDE OF SODIUM.

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Whatever may be the real therapeutic value of the bromide of potassium in the treatment of epilepsy and other disorders of the nervous system, it has come to be generally acknowledged that its prolonged use is often attended with serious inconveni-