

there are symptoms of acute inflammation of the spinal cord or its membranes.—*Bull Gén. de Thérap.*, Jan. 30th, 1863.

ON THE INTERNAL EXHIBITION OF ATROPIA AND STRYCHNIA.

Dr. Fleming has for several years employed solutions of atropia and strychnia for internal use, and he prefers them to the ordinary preparations of belladonna and nux vomica, on account of their greater safety and efficiency. The solutions of both alkaloids employed by Dr. Fleming are so proportioned in strength that ten minims is the ordinary commencing dose, which easily admits of increase for the adult, and of diminution for the child. The solution of atropia is prepared from one grain of atropia, and five drachms of distilled water. The alkaloid is to be thoroughly dissolved with the aid of a few drops of hydrochloric acid, and sufficient rectified spirit is to be added to make ten drachms. This solution keeps well, and is of uniform strength, and ten minims of it, containing one-sixtieth of a grain of atropia, is the commencing dose for an adult. It should be given in a little water, once daily, at bed-time, and on an empty stomach. For children of one year, and all ages under one year, the commencing dose is one minim; of two years, two minims; of three years, three minims, and so on up to ten years, when ten minims may be given. The diseases in which Dr. Fleming uses atropia are epilepsy, asthma, constipation, and hooping-cough. He uses it *once* a day, because the action of one dose does not subside completely for sixteen or eighteen hours; and if a second is given before the effects of the first have passed away, there is a risk of producing cumulative action. It should be given on an empty stomach, because the dose of atropia requires, for its due action, to be promptly absorbed; and when mixed with the contents of a full stomach it enters the system very gradually, and manifests its usual effects very imperfectly, or not at all. This is one reason why the drug, when taken into the stomach of the rabbit, has no action, for it always meets there a large quantity of food, and mixing with it, enters the system very gradually. Several experiments made by Dr. Fleming have satisfied him that this explanation accounts in some measure for the immunity of grass-feeding brutes from the effects of certain poisons, for their stomachs are always full. Atropia should never be given in pill, which may undergo solution very slowly or not at all, lest when two or three pills accumulate in the stomach or bowels, they may, from some change in the gastro-intestinal fluids, be suddenly dissolved, and excite severe atropism.

The solution of strychnia is made with two grains of strychnia and five