

by the stomach or by the rectum, and it is not necessary to give a larger dose by the latter than by the former method.

M. Claudio Bernard has shown that less chloroform is necessary to produce anaesthesia in an animal or a man previously narcotized by morphia, than in one to whom morphia has not been previously given. I have observed, clinically, that there is a similar mutual action between hydrate of chloral and morphia. A fourth of a grain of one of the salts of morphia, followed in an hour by 15 or 20 grs. of hydrate of chloral, will produce a greater anaesthetic and hypnotic effect than a larger dose of either of them given alone. In many cases, where a certain dose of morphia is sufficient to allay pain, but not to produce sleep, it is better to follow the morphia by hydrate of chloral than to repeat the former.

In concluding this account of the physiological and therapeutical action of chloral, I cannot express my opinion of it more clearly than to quote the words of Dr. DaCosta in the paper previously referred to, viz.: "that it is an important addition to our therapeutic means—chiefly, however, as a hypnotic. Its action as a destroyer of pain is limited; nor do I think it can compete with ether or chloroform to produce the insensibility requisite for surgical operations. Its chief value seems to be that of an auxiliary to opium, or to take its place when opium is not admissible." As a hypnotic, hydrate of chloral is better than opium. Chloral sleep is better than opium sleep.—*Boston Med. Journal.*

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TREATMENT OF RHEUMATIC FEVER BY PERCHLORIDE OF IRON.—The marked effects of tincture of perchloride of iron in such diseases as erysipelas and diphtheroid sore throat had induced J. Russell Reynolds, M.D., F.R.S., London, to try it in acute rheumatism—which agreed with the others in coming under the class of "spreading" inflammatory affections. He had given it in eight cases with such success as would justify a further trial. Having given brief histories of the eight cases, he directed attention to certain points. 1 The relief of the joint affections was definite, uniform and speedy. In four cases it was removed in one day, and the longest period of suffering