

complex or uncertain manifestations, to systematically set aside, at least temporarily, those of a much more delicate nature, which for the moment do not seem to be related in any way to known physiological facts. It is chiefly, according to M. Charcot, because these simple precautions have been too often neglected, that the researches on hypnotism, considered as an experimental neurosis, researches one day destined to give light to a multitude of questions not only of a pathological order, but also of a physiological and psychological order, otherwise almost inaccessible, have not, up to the present, borne all the fruit which can be expected from them, and have not everywhere met with the favorable reception which they merit.

The researches in hypnotism made at the Salpêtrière were all studied from the subjects of hysteria major (hystero-epilepsy). It is, besides, on the subjects of this class above all others, that the various nervous conditions, artificially produced, seem to attain their greatest development, and to appear endowed with their most characteristic attributes. It was considered wiser to limit the researches at first to the regular types, classical in a degree, before seeking to explain those forms which were perplexing, rudimentary or but slightly accentuated.

It seems well to recall here the prudent and entirely scientific method which the master employed in the study of facts, abandoned by physicians or regarded by them in a very unfavorable light, which he at first even hesitated to undertake. The important discoveries, which have resulted from it, have contributed to extend the reputation of the school of the Salpêtrière. They are derived from the medical world and have attracted such an amount of attention from public opinion, that many suppose that the works of M. Charcot were limited to hypnotism while in reality they form only a small portion of the work due to his genius. They made his name famous to the public, but his scientific reputation was already made and was founded on an immovable basis.

His lectures on hypnotism have been the source of a host of experiments and publications. Certain authors have avoided this purely scientific method, and have allowed themselves to be carried to a point at which the imagination and the desire for the marvellous overcame the judgment of a sound

and just observation. M. Charcot noticed it with pain. He feared that this new addition to science might again fall into the disrepute from which he extricated it. Some persons, quite recently, have said this feeling was due to jealousy; that he did not wish anyone to touch questions which he himself had taken up. These latter individuals little knew the man, whose scientific generosity was without an equal. They forgot that, in venturing upon the study of a discredited subject, he would, in case of failure, compromise a well-earned reputation, and furnish arguments to ill-disposed persons who saw with reluctance the ever-growing success of the free course of the Salpêtrière.

(To be concluded in our next.)

THE USE OF REPEATED FRACTIONAL DOSES OF CALOMEL.—P. Gardiner, M.B., (*Lancet*) says, I read with pleasure in the *Lancet* of July 1st, Dr. Chapman's article on the "Use of Repeated Fractional Doses of Calomel" in gastro-intestinal catarrh. For the last few years I have exhibited calomel in a similar manner with gratifying results; but lately I have substituted liquor hydrargyri perchloridi in three minim doses, with, I think, equally favorable results in children, especially when combined with half-minim doses of ipecacuanha wine. As a rule this combination acts admirably, the vomiting ceasing and the stools rapidly assuming a more normal color and smell. I find children much prefer the mixture to powders, and where medical men do their own dispensing the saving in time is obvious.

TREATMENT OF SUNSTROKE.—For cases with temperature above 104° F. Waugh, *Times and Reg.*), Ice and ice-water to head, body, rectum; continued until temperature comes down to 100°, and repeated if it rises again. Antipyrine hypodermically, ten to thirty grains; or acetanilide, by rectum. For cases with low temperature, feeble pulse, cold extremities and profuse sweating: Strichnine, gr. $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{20}$, hypodermically, or tincture digitalis, gtt. xx., warmth to feet, lower head, loosen clothes, alcohol, camphor or ammonia in small and frequent doses.

For medium or doubtful cases: Atropine, gr. $\frac{1}{100}$ hypodermically; acid phosphate; cold or heat to head, as feeble or exhaustive symptoms predominate.