

thetic remedies, Dr. T. P. Thompson states that antifebrin is infinitely a more effectual pain-reliever than antipyrin, the dose is small, and it is not very expensive. Three or four grains in a little brandy or whiskey, and then a little water added to this mixture, is the best way to give it. Repeat in four hours if necessary. Dr. Thompson has never witnessed any bad depressing effect from the employment of antifebrin. In neuralgia of the head it gives sure and speedy relief. In any given case of nerve pain where one might suspect a weak or fatty heart phenacetin is to be preferred to antifebrin, but it does not seem to act quite so surely as the latter. Phenacetin in seven or eight grain-doses every four hours is a safe and effectual remedy in all neuralgias, be they in head, back, or any other part of the body. Exalgine he has also found useful, and quite corroborates Professor Fraser's statements regarding its efficacy.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

EARLY SYMPTOMS OF GENERAL PARALYSIS OF THE INSANE.—1. Fatigue after slight exertion is often the earliest symptom noticed by the patient, and is a valuable sign if noticed in connection with other suspicious symptoms.

2. Temporary aphasia is by no means uncommon as an early sign, but it must be understood that transient attacks of aphasia without apparent cause are not always followed by general paralysis. Closely related to this sign is a change in the handwriting; some patients alter their mode of holding the pen or cease writing altogether a year or more before the disease is distinct.

3. Sudden and slight attacks of loss of power or sensation, causing a man to drop whatever he may have in his hand, are frequent.

4. Neuralgia, headache, and rheumatic pains almost invariably occur a year or more before the disease declares itself.

5. Changes of temper and character are probably the most constant of all the changes which are noticed early in the disease.

The author concludes with the advice that in a patient with a history of syphilis or of injury to the brain, do not neglect early fatigue, fainting or other fits, loss of smell, vague optic disk changes, unusual headaches, neuralgia and sciatica, and change of character—Dr. Savage, *Brit. Med. Jour.*

ANÆSTHETIC SPRAY.—Dr. B. W. Richardson states that a solution of five grains of carbolic acid in five ounces of ether used as a spray is an excellent local anæsthetic. The anæsthesia produced appears before the skin is hardened by the cold—an advantage in cutting operations. If deep incisions are required a continuance of the spray upon the tissues causes very profound anæsthesia, and dissection can be continued without pain. The anæsthesia has the additional advantage of being

more prolonged than that produced by other local anæsthetics, and there is little or no pain after re-action has taken place. The disadvantages of this spray are that in some instances the wound heals slowly and by granulation, leaving an ugly scar; and that in a very large wound there is danger of carbolic-acid poisoning. Dr. Richardson recommends use of the spray chiefly in cases of ulcerating cancer with pain and an offensive discharge.—*London Med. Rec.*

THE PREDETERMINATION OF THE SEX OF OFFSPRING.—Herr G. Herz, in a contribution to the German archives of scientific and practical veterinary surgery, on the possibility of predetermining the sex, gives an elaborate review of the numerous theories of the sexual differentiation, from which it appears that we are still entirely ignorant of the cause of such difference. He enlarges on the theory of Fiquet, which is also favored by his own experiments. Mr. Fiquet, a cattle farmer at Houston, in Texas, had observed that the sex of the young was usually that of the weaker parent. He produced for experimental purposes a marked parental difference by a certain system of keeping and feeding his cattle. If he wanted a bull calf he gave the cow plenty of particularly nourishing fodder, while the bull was given far less fodder, and that of inferior quality, and was made to serve the largest possible number of cows. If on the contrary, he wanted to produce heifers, he fed the bull well and allowed him no chance of serving other cows but those on which he wanted to experiment, and which were kept on poor fodder. Mr. Fiquet says that he was successful in thirty-two cases, and Herr Herz verified the theory by experiment of his own on goats, which gave the same results as Mr. Fiquet's experiments on cattle.—*Lancet*.

A MODIFICATION OF ROMBERG'S TEST IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA.—In a recent Bordeaux thesis, summarized in the *Gazette Hebdomadaire de Médecine et de Chirurgie*, Dr. Perron describes a modification of Romberg's test by which he has been enabled to diagnose locomotor ataxia in its incipency. The patient is directed to stand on one leg and close his eyes; if he cannot keep his balance, the inference is that he is affected with a spinal lesion that will ultimately give rise to locomotor ataxia. As ordinarily employed, Romberg's test often fails in cases that are not far advanced.—*N.Y. Med. Jour.*

STANLEY's recent Emin expedition was equipped entirely with Fairchild's digestive ferments in preference to any others, and in the recent attack of gastritis, from which Mr. Stanley suffered, he was entirely sustained upon foods previously digested with Fairchild's extractum pancreatis.