

VI.—When insomnia is due to an irritating cough, or to pains not clearly neuralgic, the use of sulfonal is contraindicated. In most of the true neuralgias, on the other hand, it appears to be of benefit.

We may notice in passing, that M. Mathes shares the opinion of Salgo, relative to the slight sedative effect of sulfonal in mania and delirium. Dr. Garnier, Director of the Lunatic Asylum La Charité, thinks that sulfonal appears to have an assured future in the therapeutics of insanity. This appreciation, agreeing with that of Rabbas, (of Marburg), evidently does not undervalue the hypnotic effect of this new medication. Rosenbach, Rosin, Ostreicher, Crämer, Schwalbe, Kast, Schney, Fraenkel, confirm, from the results of their personal experience, the preceding facts: They proclaim the remarkable efficacy of sulfonal as producing artificial sleep absolutely comparable to natural slumber. This sleep, after the absorption of a dose of two or three grams, lasts usually five or six hours, without the least modification of the pulse or respiration. They declare the drug superior to chloral, paraldehyde and all others, except for its high price. —*Am. Journal of Insanity, Jan'y, '89.*

BEEF TEA.—Recently we have more than once noticed that doubt has been expressed as to the efficiency and value of the much used, time honored *beef tea*.

In the *British Medical Journal*, Jan. 26th, Mr. Thomas Laflin impartially gives his views in this connection. Mr. Laflin represents Liebig as stating "that the greatest care is taken to exclude from his extract all fibrine, gelatine, albumen and fat." That "to extractives and salts is due all the value it possesses; that it is to be classed with tea and coffee." As to the difference between ordinary beef tea and his (Liebig's) extract of meat he merely claims for the latter that it contains less water than the former.

Another standard authority, M. Sée, holds in the main, similar views as to the deficiency in beef tea of albumen, carbo-hydrates and fats. Further M. Sée admits that if with a convalescent the strongest beef tea should replace milk the result would be disastrous.

The names of Hassall, Sibson, Wilberforce, Smith, Brunton, Masterman and others, may be cited in support of like views.

Dr. Hassall long ago showed that 14½ lbs. of beef would be required to yield beef tea enough to supply the nitrogenous daily waste of one individual, calculating that such waste amounts to 412 grains of urea and 21 of uric acid daily.

The following is an analysis of a sample of 'conventional' beef tea made from rump beef, 2 lbs. of meat to 2 pints, macerating it for four hours and then simmering it for six. No strainer was used, but the meat debris was excluded. The resultant was clear:—

Water.....	98.48
Albuminates and crystalline bodies, kreatine, &c..	.90
Fats07
Salts55

Now taking the analysis of Hassall, who found only 22.10 grains of nitrogen in each pint of beef tea, (1 lb. to the pint), made under the boiling, and 41.10 grains in that made under the infusing process, and the further opinions of Sée and Liebig, it is quite plain that we have in beef tea properly prepared, no value whatever commensurate with the cost, and an insignificant nutriment for the sick.

If beef tea then, afford us such small aid, let us see what aids we can summon for the sustenance of the patient who is

temporarily incapacitated from using the ordinary solid meat.

The first and chief resource seems to me to be milk, the richness of which in albumen fat, sugar, and salts, mark it out as pre-eminently suited for the supply of the necessary nutriment during what we shall call the interregnum. The digestive weakness which hinders the use of solid meat is a mere approximation or return to that of the infantile state. We know that the wants of this are fully supplied by milk, we know also that this is the only nutriment with which its powers are able to cope.

The next substitute for the system of alimentation by beef tea is that with which Trousseau's name is associated. It is that of minced raw meat. When we find this successfully employed in conditions of the system in which superficial ulceration of the intestinal mucous membrane constitutes the essential feature, and when that membrane is still more acutely inflamed, as in the infantile cholera of summer, it is hard to set limits to the cases to which its employment may not be applied.

Lastly we have rectal alimentation to supplement any deficiencies of mere fluid ingesta. The late Dr. Peaslee, of New York, for five and twenty years employed this system in many cases of acute inflammation, when solid food was inadmissible by the mouth. At first he employed beef tea, but losing all confidence in it, he soon abandoned it for Leube's pancreatic emulsion which he administered in quantities of 3 or 4 ounces every three or four hours.

The late Dr. Flint, of New York, in a paper read before the New York Academy of Medicine, quoted several cases where life had been sustained for a long period by this method alone. In one of these cases life was maintained for fifteen months, and in another for five years, almost entirely on it.

MENTAL DISEASES SUBSEQUENT TO GYNÆCOLOGICAL OPERATIONS.

WERTH, (Arch. für Gynäk) in a paper read before the German Gynecological Society, reported six cases of mental disease observed after three hundred gynecological operations.

Three of the cases occurred after total extirpation of the uterus; the other three followed operations where the ovaries and fallopian tubes were removed. In five of these cases the patients showed symptoms of mental depression, amounting in one case to a severe attack of acute melancholia. Four of the six patients recovered rapidly, the other two remained mentally unsound. Dr. Werth referred to twenty-four recorded cases of insanity which had followed gynecological operations.—*Medical Chronicle.*

BRAINS OF DEAF MUTES.

J. WALDSMIDT ("Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie," xlii Band, 4 Heft) describes two brains of born deaf mutes: One was a man of 46 years, the other a girl of 19. Neither of them seemed to have received much instruction, and both were of low intelligence. The two brains had this peculiarity in common, that the third convolution and island of Reil were less developed on the left side than on the right. This is made clear by some lithographed plates, in which the left island is compared with the right, and with figures from a normal brain. The temporo-sphenoidal gyri were well developed on both sides in the male. In the female brain the third temporal gyrus is scarcely recognizable.—*Journal Mental Science, Jan'y, '89.*