

not of much service. Alcohol, in not too large doses, has a place in this line of therapeutics. Febrile insomnia is essentially a toxic insomnia. Uræmia probably enters as an important factor. In the active stages of fevers, and in the declining stages when the circulation is oppressed and languid, and the prognosis is grave, elimination by the kidneys is always imperfect; hence an important part of the treatment should be to promote the excretion of the poison and the removal of effete matters. Unfortunately, this indication can be but imperfectly met. All that can be done is by suitable nutrients and stimulants to sustain the organic forces in their struggle, and to favor elimination by the kidneys and other emunctories. The various diluents (lemonade, barley-water, effervescent drinks, plain water, etc.) which are so freely given, because so constantly craved, promote excretion by the kidneys. Milk is often prescribed *ad libitum* as the sole drink and nourishment; its diuretic properties are well known.—*Therap. Gazette*.—*Epitome of Medicine*.

CONBEMALE ON A CASE OF CHRONIC ANTI-PYRINISM.—The patient was a single woman of thirty-eight, who complained of frequent and copious emesis of an acid, watery fluid, occurring generally after eating. She complained also of almost continuous eructations of a gas which left a sour taste in the mouth and a persistent burning sensation along the œsophagus. She had a short, dry cough. The patient's nutrition, of course, suffered, as she ate little because of the aggravation food produced. Insomnia was present at times, and sleep was broken by restlessness and dreams. The bowels were regular. The menstrual flow was irregular, lessened, and pale. There was an anæmic cardiac murmur. The entire abdomen was tender, particularly in the epigastric region. Her trouble was thought to be gastric ulcer, although cancer was considered possible. Four years before, the patient had suffered from an attack of acute polyarticular rheumatism, in which salicylate of soda failed, and antipyrin was substituted with a good result as far as sedation went. The patient acquired the antipyrin habit, however, and as a stimulant took daily from fifteen to thirty grains, and on frequent occasions double or treble that amount. With the aid of a potion containing

cocaine and antipyrin, gastric tolerance was established to such an extent that vomiting ceased, and two quarts of milk could be taken and retained. The general condition improved, of course, and in eight days sleep was nearly normal, and the patient promised to abandon the habit.—*Bull. Méd. du Nord*.—*Epitome of Medicine*.

QUESTIONABLE USES OF ARSENIC.—It is probably well known to all engaged in the practice of medicine or pharmacy that the custom of embalming bodies before burial is becoming more common. Frequently the operation of embalming consists merely in injecting some fluid into the cavities of the body; but often a more elaborate process is followed. In any case chemical substances are introduced into the body after death, and it sometimes happens that no little mischief is wrought in this way. The claim was at one time frequently made that it is possible to say of arsenic found in certain organs whether it was introduced into the body before or after death. This is true only to a limited extent, as it has been shown by careful experiments that arsenic injected into the stomach after death is found before long in the liver, brain, kidneys, and other organs. In other words, the *post mortem* diffusion of arsenic must be accepted as an established fact, and it cannot be assumed that the poison found in the brain, for instance, reached there during life. From this it is plain why the undertaker's practice is an objectionable one. He successfully covers up crime, making its certain detection impossible. To guard against danger in this direction, the use of solutions of mercury and arsenic compounds in the undertaker's shop should be prohibited or restricted by law.—*College and Clinical Record*.

COMMON SENSE IN MEDICINE.—A celebrated bishop, president of one of the most noted universities of this country, said to his class in divinity: "There are three things necessary for making a successful minister of the Gospel: first, a thorough, liberal education; second, the grace of God; third, common sense. The first may be obtained by earnest, diligent application to study; the second by prayerful intercession at the throne of grace, with a sincere desire for