

patient was an epileptic of many years' duration. Inasmuch as moderate doses had reduced the attacks, the attending physician reasoned that larger ones would stop them. As a result the bromides were increased until the patient was taking 150 grains a day. The patient became thoroughly intoxicated, the eyes partly closed, the sphincters relaxed, and the jaw dropped, emitting a constant drool of saliva. The major symptoms ceased but the minor ones increased. The mind became profoundly affected so that the patient was hard to arouse, indifferent and imbecilic. Allen Starr reported another such case in 1896. His patient, under the administration of moderate doses of bromide, developed symptoms of violence and mania. In this instance a withdrawal of the drug produced a complete cessation of the maniacal phenomena with a return of the epileptic seizures.

I have seen the same condition. A young man, who had suffered from epileptic convulsions for many years, required 60 grains a day of the bromide salts to arrest the attacks. If he continued this dosage over a long period of time he would become confused, irritable, unreasonable, and violent. On one occasion he attacked a fellow workman. So soon as the bromides were reduced his mental symptoms abated.

It is in keeping with these facts that Shanahan, the superintendent of the Craig Colony, makes this statement in regard to the use of bromide in the treatment of epilepsy, that "bromide, when properly given, with due attention to combating the evil effects,

brings about material improvement in carefully selected cases of epilepsy."

It seems to be the epileptic cases of long standing which show an especial antagonism to the excessive use of the bromides. I believe that the irritability of temper displayed by these long-standing epileptics is as much, if not wholly, due to the constant and excessive use of bromides as it is to the disease. In the administration of bromide in epilepsy, therefore, one should exercise caution, judgment and moderation. A patient should never be saturated, and the presence of unusual irritability, confusion, or violence should be the signal for a decrease in the dosage. At the present time when luminal has given such brilliant results in controlling the convulsions of epilepsy, it would seem that the administration of bromide in this disease would soon become obsolete.

2. Toxic Cases.—The toxic and exhaustion cases react unfavorably to the administration of bromide. They are suffering from lowered resistance and impaired nutrition, therefore, what to an ordinary individual might be an average dose of bromide, becomes to one of these patients a dangerous dose. A careful investigation and an exhaustive history of these patients will prove that in nearly every instance the mental symptoms of confusion, delirium, and mania, either made their appearance shortly after the administration of bromide, or were greatly aggravated by it. I remember one such patient where fatigue and insomnia were followed by sedatives, hypnotics, and finally steady and