

Dr. Fenwick described the symptoms of the case which were plainly those of compression. Trephining had been performed about 16 hours after the accident with manifest improvement in the symptoms.

Dr. Fuller exhibited a galvano-cautery made by Mr. Wells (corner of Condé and Wellington sts.) The mechanism of this instrument was thought very good. Price \$5.00.

Dr. Fuller then read a paper on the treatment of meningitis.

The reader reminded his hearers of the two stages of meningitis, 1st cerebral excitement, 2nd coma as a result of effusion. This division was not in accordance with post mortem observations. In few cases is there found compression by fluid, but generally there is a small quantity of fluid in the ventricles and also semi-solid lymph in the subarachnoid spaces at the base, these being insufficient to cause coma by compression. He cited a case in which when apparently there was fluid in the brain, a trocar was plunged into the lateral ventricles two days before death and no fluid escaped. He infers that coma is not due to compression, but to irritation, central or peripheral. Irritation of the brain produces, 1stly excitement, 2ndly coma; of a motor nerve produces 1stly spasm, 2ndly paralysis; of a vaso-motor nerve, 1stly pallor, 2ndly flushing; of a sensory nerve, 1stly pain, 2ndly anæsthesia. He cited a case which he had attended with Dr. Rodgers in which there were manifest signs of meningitis from which recovery followed the exhibition of gr. $\frac{1}{2}$ doses of morphia.

He summarises as follows:

1st. That coma is in most instances not due to the pressure of effusion, but to irritation.

2nd. That opiates are not contraindicated in meningitis even when coma is present if there be irregularities of the cutaneous circulation, and that opium by relieving irritation dissipates the coma.

3rd. That warm water is more agreeable, more soothing, and more efficacious than ice-caps.

Dr. Rodgers confirmed Dr. Fuller's observations with regard to the inutility of bromide of potassium.

Dr. Trenholme thought that if the theories advanced could be proved, then a great advance had been made. He had used belladonna, of

the tincture $\text{my. } \frac{1}{2}$, or of the extract $\text{gr. } \frac{1}{4}$, 1-10. When the liver is sluggish and tongue coated he used antimony. He approves of hot applications.

Dr. Reddy speaks highly of the treatment by leeching and opium. Uses hot applications in nervous headaches in hysterical and anæmic women.

Dr. Kennedy would hesitate to use opium in meningitis. If coma be caused by anæmia of the brain then opium would be beneficial and so would ergot.

Dr. Osler drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the treatment was old. At autopsies tubercle was often over-looked and effusion is often not recognized unless the ventricles are examined *in situ*. He considered the reports of the cases very unsatisfactory.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Fuller was proposed by Dr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Loverin.

Dr. Reddy narrated several cases of rapid union of wounds without suppuration, by dressing with Friar's Balsam.

J. D. CLINE, B.A., M.D., *Secretary*.

A breach of promise suit was recently brought against a clergyman of Leicester, England, and, amongst other facts brought forward, in order to prove that the defendant was a gentleman of peculiar habits, was that of his having taken five pills a day, during a period of ill health which extended over thirty years. According to this he must have swallowed some 55,000 pills—a fact which certainly entitles him to rank as one of the chief pillars of the church.

SPERMATORRHEA TREATED BY ELECTRICITY.

M. Verneuil of Paris, as mentioned in the *Doctor*, has invented, for the treatment of an unmanageable case of nocturnal erections, with seminal emissions, an electric *alarm*, by which a little bell is sounded, and the patient awakened, whenever the erection commences. A very light metallic ring connects the penis with the pole of a battery. We should think the old-fashioned ring, with the teeth on the inner circumference, would answer a better purpose, and in a more silent manner.

FASHIONABLE ENTERTAINMENTS FOR THE WEEK.

"Going to the Throat and Ear Ball, Lady Mary?"
 "No; we are engaged to the Incurable Idiots."
 "Then perhaps I may meet you at the Epileptic Dance on Saturday?" "Oh yes, we are sure to be there. The Epileptic managers are so delightful."
 — *London Punch*.