

regeneration of the nervous tubes, which alone could cause the recovery of sensibility and mobility, was the work of weeks and months, and could not immediately take place. Such, also, was the opinion of Mr. Brown-Séquard and of MM. Vulpian and Philippeaux. These two gentlemen published last year a memoir which received academical honors, and in which they gave the relation of different experiments they had made, the result of which is entirely opposed to that obtained by Mr. Langier.—*Paris Cor. of Lond. Lancet.*

BROMIDES OF POTASSIUM AND AMMONIUM.

Dr. Garrod, after an experience of nine years with bromide of potassium, remarks, in the *Medical Times*, that whilst iodide of potassium has its influence more especially directed to the mucous membranes and secreting organs, the bromide although also decidedly alterative, and may often be prescribed with advantage when the iodide cannot be borne, he finds to act more on the nervous system.

He says, it never produces symptoms like iodism, unless adulterated with an iodide.

(The addition of acetate of lead to a bromide in solution produces a white precipitate, but if an iodide be present it will be yellow. *Ed.*)

Bromide of potassium, he remarks, never causes irritation of the mucous membranes of the nose and fauces, although some patients experience a peculiar sensation of dryness of the throat and neighboring parts.

Large doses he has occasionally found to produce drowsiness and dull headache, and when given in excessive quantities, some loss of power in the lower extremities, which pass off when the medicine is discontinued.

Sir Charles Locock first drew his attention to its use in hysterical epilepsy, irritable uterus, and other nervous affections connected with uterine disturbance, from which he was led to make further trials of the remedy.

He has found it to exert a most powerful influence on the generative organs, lowering their functions in a remarkable degree; and considers it a valuable remedy in diseases dependent on their over excitement as nymphomania, priapism, &c.

He likewise recommends it in nervous convulsive diseases dependent on uterine irritation.

And finally adds his testimony to its power of producing an anæsthetic condition of the larynx and pharynx, so useful in examinations and operations of these parts.

The doses he gives are from 5 to 15 grs. (It is most readily taken in milk. *Ed.*)

Bromide of Ammonium.—Whilst on this subject we would draw attention to an article in *British and Foreign Dispensary*, by Dr. Griffith of Dublin, on the use of bromide of ammonium in cases of irritable uterus, amenorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, and uterine hæmorrhage, from whatever cause. He has found it powerfully anodyne and hæmstatic, and prescribes it in doses of from 10 to 20 grains or more every four hours; but to stop the menstrual discharge altogether and quickly, he directs from a scruple to a drachm to be taken at once, and follows it with doses of from 10 to 20 grains every hour or two. When for pain of a paroxysmal character, he orders a drachm at the outset, and from 20 to 30 grains, a quarter of an hour or ten minutes before its expected return, continuing it afterwards in 10 grain doses every

third or fourth hour. He says, he has seen wonderful effects follow this mode of treatment.

He also recommends it in cases of chronic bronchitis, in which he has found it to give great relief to the distressing symptoms. W. E. B.

A HERMAPHRODITE.—Several years since I was called to the birth of a singularly formed child, which is still living, and which can scarcely be classified with either the male or female sex, for it evidently can lay claim to both. It has a well developed penis; and the scrotum, although small, contains two testicles. These are not as large as they should be certainly, yet they are there, and are of the shape and size of large peas. At first sight I supposed it to be a male child, and was about to declare it such, when my attention was arrested by the fact that there was no urinary passage through the penis. I found that this deficiency was supplied by a partially developed vagina situated beneath the scrotum, and through which the urine flows in the same manner and direction as from a well-formed female. The meatus urinarius is however about two inches from the external orifice of the pseudo-vagina, which latter is surrounded by a sphincter muscle similar to the rectum. There are no labia minora, nor is there any clitoris or even rudiments of them. The vagina, covered by a normal mucous membrane, is four inches in length, and seemingly terminates in a cul de sac.

This being is now four years and a half old, and is well developed both in body and mind. It seems to be as intelligent as any child of its age, and will no doubt, should it live, grow up and prove as clever as any other member of the family. The mother wished to call it a girl but I advised her to rank it among children of the masculine gender, which she accordingly did; and from present inclinations and desires, she certainly seems prepared to vindicate herself from all charges of girlhood.

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Princeton, C. W., August 6, 1864.

TRICHINA SPIRALIS.—Deaths from the presence of this parasite, are beginning to excite considerable attention in this country. Some cases were reported as having occurred in New York city last winter, from eating a ham, and an examination of portions of the ham exhibited an abundant presence of trichinæ. These cases were reported in the *Medical Times* for February. Several deaths occurred in May last in the vicinity of Buffalo, N. Y., and considerable space is occupied in the *Medical and Surgical Journal* with their report. The symptoms of these cases were such as in the first place to lead the attending physician to suppose he had "acute muscular rheumatism" to deal with; there was "stiffness of the limbs and the whole body, bloating of the face, with a slight œdema of the eyelids; soon after there followed distinct pains in all the limbs and body, so that they could not bear even the slightest touch. By and by the pains diminished; then set in very labored respiration and great prostration combined with profuse sweats. In the commencement of the illness they both had had slight diarrhœa for a few days, and during the whole course of the sickness they suffered greatly from sleeplessness and unquenchable thirst." In the post mortem a great abundance of trichinæ were found in the shreds of sausage of which the patients had eaten, and in muscular fibre taken from the