

AMNESIA.

CHARCOT (*Rev. de Méd.*, March, 1892) reports a case of amnesia, probably of hysterical origin, and which he terms retro-antegrade. A woman, aged 34, previously well, suddenly received a (false) report on August 28th, 1891, that her husband was dead. She became delirious with hallucinations, and later lethargic, the whole attack lasting three days. It was then found that she had lost all recollection of events occurring between July 15th and August 28th (period of retrograde amnesia), although it was ascertained that her memory during that period had been perfect. Events which occurred before July 15th were very clearly and exceptionally well retained. Why the loss of memory should have begun on that date, no sufficient reason can be given, but this is noted also in traumatic amnesia. After the attack she could apparently hardly recollect anything of what was going on round about her, but that events were registered is clear from the fact that they were reproduced in sleep and in the hypnotic state. This condition would thus seem less grave, as it shows only a dynamic loss and not a destructive amnesia. Thus, for instance, the fact that she had been bitten by a dog in October (that is, within the period of antegrade amnesia) was absolutely forgotten in the waking state, but clearly recollected in the hypnotic sleep. Although there was no marked evidence of hysteria, Charcot thinks that the case is of that nature, and that the patient had passed through a delirious phase of that disease into this amnesic state. The long duration—namely, four months—is not astonishing when compared with hysterical vigil-ambulism. A slow recovery, with the help of suggestion, is to be anticipated. (A note made in January, 1892—that is, nearly a month later—shows that the patient had already begun to improve.) *British Medical Journal*.

SALIPYRIN IN INFLUENZA.

Dr. Arthur Hennig, of Königsberg, states (*Allgemeine med. Central Zeitung*, No. 93, 1891) that salipyrin exerts a favorable action on influenza, especially in the nervous and cardiac forms of that disease. It is equally efficient in the gastric and respiratory forms. In the latter cases it may be combined with expectorants and intestinal antiseptics. Salipyrin is dissolved with difficulty in water, but may nevertheless be given in that liquid. Hennig recommends the following formula:—

R Salipyrini,..... 6 grammes (ziss).
Glycerini,..... 14 grammes (ziiss).
Syr. rubi idæi,..... 30 grammes (ziiss).
Aque destillatæ,..... 40 grammes (3x).—M.

Sig.—A tablespoonful every half hour, until all is taken.

Professor V. Mosengeil, of Bonn, indorses Hennig's opinion concerning the specific action of salipyrin in influenza. All complications, however, require special treatment, but with Hennig's treatment complications are less frequently met with.—*La Médecine Moderne*, December 17, 1891, p. 878.

THE NEW TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA BY LARGE DOSES OF DIGITALIS.

Petresco claims that digitalis in large doses does good not only in infectious croupous pneumonia, but even in broncho- and pleuro-pneumonias. He claims to have cut short this disease by this sole treatment in from twenty-four to forty-eight hours, during which time he has observed an abrupt fall of temperature from 106.5° F. (the highest seen) to 98°, 96.8°, and even 95° F., together with a marked reduction of the pulse, which, from as high as 140, and even higher, was brought down to 60, 40, 30, and, in one remarkable instance, to as low as 24. In the last case, the patient fell into a quiet sleep, this being followed by a local and general improvement. In 825 cases, treated by him since 1883, exclusively by large doses of the drug, he has had a mortality of 2.06 per cent. Bennet, it will be remembered, obtained under the tonic treatment a mortality of 3 per cent. in 129 cases, and a mortality of 6.08 per cent. in 720 cases under the expectant treatment. In the experience of Edinburgh, in a record of 698 cases, treated by venesection alone, the mortality was 34.5 per cent., which speaks for itself. Petresco used 60 to 90 grains (4 to 6 grammes) a day, in infusion, for three and four days consecutively, and in these doses never noticed untoward effects, such as vomiting, diarrhoea, disturbance of the pulse, and, much less, collapse.

The latest contribution to this subject is that of Tikl, of Vienna. Sixty-one carefully-studied observations were made by him of which 47 were cases of fibrinous and 14 of lobular pneumonia. All these cases were inclusively treated with large doses of digitalis. Only 1 death occurred, giving a mortality of 1.65 per cent. In the whole series of these cases, some disagreeable, but not fatal, symptoms were observed: in 2, there was a moderate collapse; in 12, vomiting; in 4, an intermittent pulse; and in a few, slight diarrhoea. These effects disappear on suspension of the drug, after which the good results come on rapidly. Tikl prescribed, during twenty-four hours, 3 grammes (45 grains) of digitalis in 200 grammes (6½ ounces) of water in the form of an infusion.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*, December 12, 1891, p. 941.