

THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL POISONING.

In a very able article in Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin for May, from the pen of Dr. Henry J. Berkley, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, we note a number of very interesting statements. He gives the finding in cases of acute alcoholic poisoning in man, and then those in experimental work on animals. We give the conclusions at which the author of the article arrives:—

1. In acute alcoholic poisoning, the stress of the action of the drug falls upon the tissues of the walls of the blood vessels, rather than upon the nervous element of the brain.

2. The involvement of the nerve elements is more gradual than that of the mesoblastic tissues, and only becomes noticeable by present methods of staining and examination, after the lymphatic channels are choked with the detritus of white blood corpuscles and other cellular elements.

3. Nevertheless, the deteriorative action of ethyl alcohol on the nerve cell is apparent, and when prolonged, in more moderate doses than was administered to the rabbits, produces well defined cellular changes, as is evidenced by nuclear and dendritic changes.

4. In its action on the nervous tissues, ethyl alcohol may be likened to certain other poisons, such as ricin or the tox-albumins. The administration of these toxins causes the same departures from the normal in the nerve elements, but the alcohol has a much greater destructive effect upon the white blood cells, as well as the cells composing the walls of the blood vessels.

5. The effect of the drug is proportionate to the quantity administered to the animal, as well as to the duration of its poisonous action before death ensues. Limited quantities continued over a considerable time accomplish, in modified form, the same destructive results as higher doses, acting during a few days.

THE TREATMENT OF ECLAMPSIA.

In a recent issue of the *New York State Journal of Medicine*, there appeared an article by Dr. William L. Wallace, of Syracuse, dealing with the treatment of eclampsia.

He contends that the treatment should neither be that of too much interference nor that of do nothing. He does not hesitate to condemn the teaching and practice that is too common, that the matter is summed