

And here I may mention that the judicious practitioner will invariably cleanse his syringe before laying it aside. This is essential in the case of morphia injections, for if it be not done the instrument will be unfit for use on the next occasion. It is easily done: Just draw up enough pure water to fill the instrument, then force half of it through the nozzle, and next partly unscrewing the needle, and closing the point with the finger and thumb of the right hand, inject the remainder of the pure water through the screw part that unites needle and cylinder. Then place the wire in the needle and your instrument is ready for its case, and will be immediately fit for use when required again. These directions may seem trivial, but those who follow them will not be of that opinion.

With regard to the quantity of morphia solution that may be injected, I have had since the publication of my treatise on Sciatica some peculiar experience. I mean that I have met with some cases in which such a small dose produced such excessive vomiting that at first I thought I should have had to give up this method. And, indeed, I should have desisted giving the injection had not the patients invariably declared that, notwithstanding the illness it occasioned, they would still persist in having the injection, because, as they alleged, it so greatly diminished the pain even forty-eight hours after it was done, while for some hours it absolutely prevented it. In three of these cases the largest dose that could be given subcutaneously without the infliction of vomiting was the one-twenty-fourth of a grain, so that in each of them I was compelled to make a specially diluted solution, as it would have been difficult to estimate that proportion in case my own solution were employed.

COLLECTION OF PRESCRIPTIONS FOR DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

BY C. C. VANDERBECK, M.D.

Having for years carefully preserved the copy of the prescriptions ordered for patients at the various clinics of our numerous hospitals and dispensaries, at which I may have been attending, I now submit some of them to the readers of the *Medical and Surgical Reporter* :—

SCIATICA (*Non-rheumatic*).

R. Quinina sulph., grs. xij.

Sig.—Two grains every four hours, in solution.

R. Tinct. iodinii.

Sig.—Paint the painful part with this once a day.

R. Morph. sulph. gr. $\frac{1}{6}$.

Sig.—Give hypodermically, once a day.
Da Costa.

DOUBLE NEURALGIC SCIATICA.

Full, nutritious diet. Life in the open air.

Such use of hypodermic injections of morphia as shall insure ease from pain; also:—

R. Pil. ferri. arsenic. et quiniæ.

Sig.—One pill after each meal. *Da Costa.*

EPILEPTICAL SEIZURES AT THE MENSTRUAL PERIOD.

The case in question was a young woman who menstruated only once in six weeks, and then the flow was very scanty. The convulsions were pronounced to be due to reflex irritation, from congestion of the ovaries.

R. Aloes, gr. j.
Belladonna ext., gr. $\frac{1}{6}$
Capsici, gr. $\frac{1}{4}$.
Ft. pil.

Sig.—Taken every evening for a few days before menstrual period. Just at this time, leeches applied over the ovaries, and warm baths, will be of service. The diet must be of easy digestibility.

Also use the following prescription:—

R. Pot. brom., grs. xx
Tinct. belladonnæ, ℥ ij
Syrupi,
Aque, aa q.s., ad. ft. 3 ij.

Sig.—One dose three times a day.

It may be remembered that it was in just such cases as these, of convulsions attending disorders of menstruation that bromide of potash first came into use. It was soon discovered that its antispasmodic virtue extended to all forms of epileptic seizures, whether connected with some obvious irritation, or having no such dependence, being idiopathic in character.

IDIOPATHIC EPILPSY.

R. Sod. Brom. grs. x
Tinct. aurantii cort. ℥ xx
Tinct. belladonnæ, ℥ ij
Mist. acaciæ, q.s., ad. ft. 3 j. M.

Sig.—One dose, taken in water, two hours after each meal.

Or—

R. Potas. bromid., ʒ iiij
Ammon. bromid., ʒ iiij
Pot. bicarb., grs. xx
Tinct. columbæ, ʒ iiij
Aque, ʒ xij. M.

Sig.—Teaspoonful to tablespoonful, ter die.

The addition of the columbo makes the mixture more agreeable to the stomach, and also acts as a mild tonic, and it also preserves the liquid from becoming flocculent, as it tends to do when the menstruum is composed of water solely.

NEURALGIA.

R. Veratriæ, grs. x-xx
Adipis, ʒ j. M.

Ft. unguentum.

Sig.—Apply to part.