

those of the anterior cornua of the cord showed changes in their protoplasm quite similar to those met with in cases of chorea. (8) In association with the red blood corpuscles of the vessels of the spinal cord in a choreic patient he found bodies clearly bacillary in nature, some exactly similar to those of the cultures, others apparently being involutions forms. Dr. Pianese is continuing his researches, and hopes soon to be able to bring forward further confirmatory evidence as to the real bacillary nature of chorea.—*Br. Med. Jour.*

**COCAINE IN VOMITING.**—M. W. Everson, M.D., in *College and Clinical Record*, calls the attention to the special merit of cocaine in nausea, particularly in that of pregnancy, gastric ulcer and cancer.

"In vomiting of pregnancy  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  grain three times daily will generally be sufficient. Cocaine will be found of value where other remedies fail. I have found it successful in those cases of vomiting of pregnancy in which the so-called specifics, oxalate of cerium, etc., have failed. In gastric cancer it will often arrest the vomiting for days at a time, thus giving the stomach rest and allowing more perfect attempts at nutrition. In every case in which it was used the vomiting and pain were noticeably lessened, and the patient was made vastly more comfortable. But, regardless of the above special diseases, cocaine is of use in vomiting from any cause; and there are many cases attended by vomiting met with by the practitioner of medicine for which no cause can be immediately assigned. In these cases its action is manifested at once, and after the first dose the vomiting usually ceases. The most desirable way to administer cocaine is in pill form, but it may be given in solution when a proper vehicle is added. Cocaine can be given in suitable doses without fear of depression; indeed, it can be given to a double advantage where a weak circulation exists, as it is to some extent a circulatory stimulant. It is also of use in vomiting of enterocolitis of children, a disease which is so frequent in our large cities during the heated term, and in which vomiting is so prominent a symptom. In the latter affection it is best given in combination with bismuth. To a child two years of age I give  $\frac{1}{8}$  grain of the hydrochlorate at a dose, and repeat it every few hours, *pro re nata*."—*Pharm. Record.*

**THE ACTION OF CHLORAL HYDRATE ON THE KIDNEYS.**—Since the publication of Liebrich's monograph on chloral, there has been no study of the action of this remedy on the kidneys sufficient to explain results which had been sometimes noted to follow the use of this valuable hypnotic. Dr. Cavazzini has, however, recently made some experiments in this connection on dogs and guinea pigs, and he has found that when injected into the

abdominal cavity, chloral hydrate produces marked irritation of the secreting cells of the kidneys. Even after the first injection it causes visible granular degeneration of the epithelium of the convoluted tubules, while after prolonged administration the epithelium of all renal tubules, undergoes degeneration, with the single exception of that of the straight tubes.

In more severe cases it produces swelling of all the renal epithelium, with other symptoms of acute parenchymatous nephritis, although the Malpighian glomeruli are never affected, nor is there ever any implication of the interstitial connective tissue.

The intensity of this destructive process depends partly upon the duration of the poisoning, partly also upon the individual's susceptibility. If the remedy is introduced through the stomach, it may likewise produce degenerative changes, but not to as marked a degree or as rapidly as when it is injected into the peritoneal cavity. The lesions thus described of the renal tissue are stated by the author to disappear after suspension of the use of this drug. Nevertheless, the author states that in none of the cases in which the post-mortem examination proved this condition to be present, did he ever during life succeed in detecting any albuminuria, a fact which will, perhaps, explain the great scarcity of clinical observation pointing to the danger of chloral from its action on the kidneys. The author's observations, however, show that the kidneys are liable to marked disorganization from the action of chloral, and should serve to indicate the necessity for great caution in the employment of chloral in cases where the kidneys are already affected.—*Therapeutic Gazette.*

**THE RACE FOR NEW DRUGS.**—There appeared in *The Medical News* of November 7th an able and vigorous editorial article based upon the report of a case of poisoning by "antikamnia," calling attention to the dangers of prescribing pharmaceutical products the composition of which is unknown, and roundly denouncing manufacturers for foisting such goods upon the profession.

But the substance named is only one of hundreds of so-called new remedies, the manufacturers from the sale of which, with the aid of the medical profession, are waxing rich. These preparations effusively lauded to physicians by their introducers, and thrust upon our notice in every conceivable way—and it is rarely the case that the extravagant and often ridiculous claims made for them are not fortified by apparently reputable medical authority. This appears to be, in fact, a *sine qua non* to "success" in the new venture.

For the real cause of this evil, however, it seems to me that we need not go so far from home as to the chemist or to the pharmacologist. It is but incidental to a far greater evil that pervades the