

## Miscellaneous.

**CONSANGUINEOUS MARRIAGES.**—At the Deaf and Dumb School, at Barcelona, Spain, there have been admitted two hundred and fifty-three children, during thirty-one years; of these only fifteen were the issue of consanguineous parents. This constitutes very small ground for the belief of the danger of such alleged misalliances.—*Independencia Medica.*

**MODE OF INSTANTLY ARRESTING PALPITATION.**—In treating of nervous cardiopalmus, Dr. Maidier proposes to make the patient bend over on himself, with his head lowered and his arms dangling. In this way a greater quantity of blood flows to the brain, and the heart beats normally, so much the more if respiration is at the same time suspended.—(*Lo Sperimentale*, through the *Gaz. Med. Ital.*)

**NITRITE OF AMYL IN TINNITUS AURIUM,** has been employed with advantage by Dr. Bargellini, who puts two or three drops into Politzer's air-bag, with which he inflates the middle ear through Eustachian tube. He uses it especially when chloroform and ether are of no avail, and he has never had any inconvenience of any sort from it. As tinnitus often arises from spasm of the muscles of the tympanum, he thinks its action can be explained as calmative, when the cause of the tinnitus resides in the tympanic cavity, (muscular and nervous spasm of the tympanic plexus) and does not arise from compression in the labyrinth.—*Lo Sperimentale*, through the *Gaz. Med. Ital.*)

"THE SILLY MEDICINE" is the name given to *hyoscyamine* by the patients in the West Riding Lunatic Asylum, the reason being that a full dose, as a grain and a half, tones down a vociferous, violent and destructive maniac in a very short time to a state of helplessness resembling imbecility. Such is the account given of it by Dr. Lawson of the Asylum named. He has used it in sthenic forms of mania, where the physique is not worn down by prolonged excitement, "especially in the aggressive outbursts which characterize life in a refractory

ward, and in the treatment of chronic monomania of suspicion." A single dose commonly produces profound sleep, followed by a marked mitigation of the violent symptoms. The drug used by him is that manufactured by Mirk.—*Med. Soc. Kinas County.*

While there are, as Dr. Potter says, peculiar temptations for physicians to indulge any appetite they may have for the cup that makes the heart glad, there are exceedingly strong temptations for them to resist the inclination. As they know full well that moderate drinking is apt, sooner or later, to lead to over indulgence, and that just as soon as their patrons discover the propensity, away goes business and reputation. No other class of men, with the single exception of the clerical, are so easily and quickly affected in their business by the habit of drink as physicians. In these days, when doctors are so abundant, and such ample opportunities are afforded for a choice among many, the people in this enlightened age will not place their lives in jeopardy by knowingly employing a physician who habitually drinks even in moderation.—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer.*

**SYPHILITIC PHTHISIS.**—M. Fournier (*Gazet. Hebdomad. di Med.*—*Lond. Med. Record*, July 15, 1876) concludes an elaborate lecture on the above subject with the following important axioms:

1. Tertiary syphilis can produce in the lungs lesions which either locally or by reacting on the general health simulate pulmonary phthisis.
2. These pulmonary lesions of syphilis are often amenable to specific treatment. However grave and important they may appear, they are far from being always beyond the resources of art.

3. Consequently when a case of pulmonary lesion presents itself, it is important, unless the existence of tuberculosis be quite certain, to ascertain if the lesion can be traced to syphilis. It is necessary always to bear in mind that syphilis is a possible cause of pulmonary lesions.

4. When syphilis can be suspected to be the cause, the primary indication is to prescribe specific treatment which in similar cases has been sometimes followed by the happiest results.—*Detroit Review.*