

Then came the suggestion by Lauder Brunton that by the use of nitrite of amyl we ought to relieve angina pectoris, because of its relaxing effects on the systematic vessels; and his theory was found to work out satisfactorily in practice. Soon afterwards nitroglycerine was employed for the same purpose, and has to a certain extent superseded the former medicine.

About the same time salicylic acid was recommended for acute rheumatism, and has proved by all odds the best remedy for that disease.

The derivatives from coal-tar have supplied us with a bewildering number of drugs, some of which have been more widely employed of late years than almost any other remedies in the pharmacopœia. Among these it must suffice to mention antipyrin, phenacetin, and anti-febrin. One is at a loss to know how we could have got along in the treatment of the many epidemics of "la grippe" with which we have had to deal had we not these remedies to alleviate the pain and fever attending them. We very much fear however that the indiscriminate use of these by the laity for the relief of headache, etc., will ultimately lead to so much harm as to counterbalance the good done by their legitimate employment.

We must not forget to call to mind the new local anæsthetics obtained from the cocoa plant, namely, cocaine, eucaïne, holocaine and orthoform. In operations on the eye, nose and throat they have proved simply invaluable. In minor operations of all kinds they have been largely used, and quite recently more important proceedings such as abdominal section, hernia operations, etc., have been undertaken with little or no feeling of pain through the hypodermic injection of eucaïne, which has proved to be quite safe even in comparatively large doses.

Again, in the treatment of heart-disease, we have added several new remedies of more or less value. There are strophanthus, convallaria and cactus. Furthermore, the use of strychnia has become very common in cases of heart-failure, and has been found very efficacious.

Inhalations of oxygen gas have been recently tried quite extensively in deficient aeration of the blood, especially as met with in some cases of severe pneumonia, and very often with the most gratifying results.

Time would fail us to enumerate, much less treat of, the numerous other new remedies which have been more or less made use of during the last twenty years. It must suffice to refer to the class of animal extracts which are now being extensively tested in the treatment of diseases of various organs of the body. The most reliable of these is