

the attacks of suffocation and dyspnoea have acquired an extreme intensity, injections of morphia are of the greatest service.

To support this view, M. Huchard, besides his own personal observations, quotes the facts published by Levy, of Vienna, 1867, by Renauld, in 1874, and by Vibert, in 1875. The communication of M. Huchard presents two points deserving of attention:—

1st. The popularization of the employment of opium in affections of the heart.

2nd. The theory by which the good results are explained.

M. Huchard recognizes that other medical men have perscribed morphia in affections of the heart, but his desire has been to fix the indications and contraindications of the method.

It has been known for a long time that opium in doses of from one to two centigrammes, among other physiological effects, produces slight excitement of the circulation, exhilaration of the spirits, animation of the face, and an increase of muscular power; but if, after the appearance of well-marked phenomena of excitement, the dose be increased from five to ten centigrammes, depression of the circulation and tendency to sleep supervene. Professor Gubler, in his *Commentaries*, insists on the utility of opium in want of stimulation of the nerve centres, due to impoverished or altered blood; and Dr. Vibert, at the end of a memoir published in the *Journal de Thérapeutique*, 1876, concludes that the previous employment of injections of morphia in the operation of thoracentesis, and even in all operations giving rise to syncope, prevents the occurrence of such accidents. M. Huchard employs opium in the hope of utilizing its hyperæmic properties on the nerve centres, and particularly on the brain. In patients suffering from aortic obstruction or insufficiency, with symptoms of suffocation, dyspnoea, cold sweats, pallor of the face, etc., he has seen these formidable symptoms disappear after the injection of one centigramme of morphia.

If opium be useful in cases of aortic affection accompanied by vertigo, buzzing in the ears, tendency to giddiness, cephalalgia, it is because such symptoms are those of cerebral anæmia, and that cerebral ischemia is a frequent complication, not only of aortic insufficiency, but of aortic lesions in general. Hence, the administration of opium is indicated in the course of affections in which cerebral ischemia is equally met with.

In M. Huchard's opinion, as in that of Professor Gubler, opium may be used in certain forms of anæmia, as it acts as an excellent tonic owing to its congestive action on the brain. It may be prescribed for cachectic or phthisical patients, for in such cases, besides the tonic action of opium recognized by Sydenham, we also utilize the power of this medicine to calm the dyspnoea and the cough.

HISTORICAL ITEM.—Most persons regard Homœopathy as a system of modern origin, dating back only to Hahnemann, who brought it into notice about seventy-five years since; Dr. Meryon's History of Medicine furnishes us, however, with the following:—"Gregory I. (surnamed the Great), who filled the papal throne A.D. 590 to 604, and whose name is celebrated in English history from his mission for the conversion of our Islands, affected the most supreme contempt for profane literature, as well as for the arts and sciences; but curiously enough, it was his fate to help most materially the cause to which he was so vehemently hostile; for, although he cared not for science, he endeavored to propagate his faith in Christianity by sending missionaries to all parts of Europe, many of whom, like Theodoric in England, encouraged the study of literature and medicine. A most remarkable passage occurs in the writings of Gregory, which is probably the earliest, and certainly the most unequivocal enunciation of one great dogma of the system of Homœopathy, and tends to confirm the notion that that system was practised at this early period. It runs thus:—'*Mos medicinæ est ut aliquando similia similibus, aliquando contraria contrariis curet. Nam sæpe calida calidis, frigida frigidis, sæpe autem frigida calidis, calida frigidis sanare consuevit.*' The identity of words renders it impossible to read the above paragraph without a suspicion that an old and obsolete tenet may have been reproduced to the world under the garb of a new discovery; but if it be not *absolutely* true that human nature is destined to renew its acquaintance from time to time with exploded doctrines, just as we renew our acquaintance with by-gone diseases, it is an apt illustration of the proverb advanced by an authority far more unerring than we can pretend to, that 'there is no new thing under the sun.'"

THE TREATMENT OF ULCERS.

Dr. Mandelbaum, of Odessa, says (*Berl. Klin. Wochenschrift*, No. 10, 1878) all ulcers of the leg and elsewhere, can be cured by the following method:—If they are very deep, with much loss of tissue, and with undermined, uneven, callous edges, they are first to be scraped away until healthy tissue is reached, with the modification of Volkmann's spoon as suggested by Hebra; they are then to be covered for several days with a thick layer of iodoform until fresh granulations spring up (as they are certain to do), and until the base of the ulcer has reached the level of the surrounding skin. When this point in the healing process is reached, the ulcer is to be strapped daily with equal parts of mercurial and soap plaster of rather soft consistence, and carefully and evenly applied. Shallow ulcers, covered only with pus, require no scraping, but can be at once treated with iodoform.