

employed. Its nauseating influence constitutes a serious drawback to its use, as toleration is difficult to establish, and I have rarely succeeded in giving more than twenty grains a day. Bromide of zinc has seemed of small value, and is borne badly. The addition of arsenic to bromide in no case produced any marked effect on the attacks. It was used in a large number of cases on account of the readiness with which, it was found, the bromide rash could be prevented by its use.

Bromide of camphor, highly praised by Bourneville, was tried in a considerable number of cases, but without any good results. Turpentine has been recommended by Dr. Radcliffe, and I have seen it produce very striking benefit, but only in cases of hystero-epilepsy.

The use of iron in epilepsy has been discountenanced by high authorities, on grounds which are not altogether beyond question. In rare cases it increased the frequency of attacks; in the majority of cases in which it was used it was borne without any ill result; in many the addition of iron to bromide was attended with a marked and permanent improvement, and in some cases iron alone arrested the fits. The series includes 4 cases which ceased under iron only, and 8 others in which iron alone was distinctly better than bromide, and 19 cases in which the addition of iron to bromide exercised a marked influence. In no less than 11 cases attacks which persisted on bromide, ceased on the addition of iron, and remained absent as long as the treatment was continued.

In several inveterate cases of epilepsy in which bromide had no effect, I have tried borax. In some cases it did no good, but in 12 its value was most distinct. I may mention one or two. In one, fits which had continued on bromide and on zinc ceased entirely on borax for three months, and then only recurred when the medicine was discontinued. In another case the fits continued, about one weekly, during three months' treatment on bromide and on belladonna. Borax was then substituted, the fits at once ceased, and for five months the patient had not a single fit; then he had one in each of the two following months; the dose of borax was increased, and up to the present time, eight months later, no other attack has occurred. In a third case, one or two attacks occurred once a fortnight on bromide. Borax was substituted, and for five months the patient had not a single fit. The doses given have been ten or fifteen grains twice or three times a day. It produces in some patients gastro-intestinal disturbance, and, rarely, a form of dysenteric diarrhoea. By others it is well borne, and one of my patients has taken forty-five grains a day for twelve months without the slightest inconvenience, and says that no medicine has ever done him so much good. In cases in which bromide fails, borax certainly deserves a trial.

The use of *cocculus indicus* in epilepsy, recommended by Dujardin-Beaumetz, has lately attracted attention, in consequence of the recommenda-

tion of Planat. I have tried the alkaloid picrotoxine in a few instances, but only in one case has it appeared to do good. My own experience of its use has, however, been small, and I am very much indebted to my colleague, Dr. Ramskill, for permitting me to mention some interesting results which he has obtained by the hypodermic injection of picrotoxine. His experience of its effect on the fits when given through the skin is nearly the same as my own of its employment by the mouth. In seven cases in which it was injected, in daily doses of from one to four milligrammes, no beneficial result was obtained; in most cases, indeed, the attacks were rather more frequent and severe. Of course, we are not justified in assuming that the effects of picrotoxine and of the *cocculus indicus* itself are identical. A very interesting fact has, however, been ascertained by Dr. Ramskill—viz., that picrotoxine in larger doses of from fifteen to eighteen milligrammes will almost invariably produce a fit in twenty or thirty minutes. In one patient, for instance (according to the notes of Mr. Broster, who carried out the experiments), the dose was daily increased, and when more than five milligrammes were injected, a sensation of giddiness followed, similar to that with which the attacks commenced. The same effect followed larger injections, and when the dose reached eighteen milligrammes a severe attack occurred thirty minutes later, and an attack always followed the injection of this dose. In another patient a similar progressive increase of the dose was followed by giddiness and headache, when eight milligrammes were injected. When the dose of fifteen milligrammes was reached, a severe epileptic fit followed. Next day a second dose of fifteen milligrammes did not cause a fit, but eighteen milligrammes, two days later, caused a fit in half an hour. After a week's intermission twenty-four milligrammes were injected, and a severe fit occurred in twenty-five minutes. In a third patient a fit occurred after one injection of eight milligrammes, but ten milligrammes next day caused no fit. Fifteen milligrammes, however, were followed by a fit in thirty minutes, and a second injection of the same dose the following day caused a fit in fifteen minutes. Seventeen milligrammes next day caused a fit in thirty minutes. In a fourth patient a single dose of eighteen milligrammes caused, in ten minutes, giddiness and slight dazling before the eyes, and in thirty minutes there occurred the usual aura of an attack—a sensation of something creeping up the right arm to the top of the head, and numbness and twitching in the right thigh, but no fit followed, although the patient was stupid and dull for a time just as after a fit.

Among other drugs which I have tried and found useless I may mention benzoate of soda and nitro-glycerine.

In hystero-epilepsy bromides, sometimes useful; fail entirely much more frequently than in simple epilepsy, and the combinations with *digitalis* and *belladonna* are also less frequently useful. Iron, especially guarded by aloes, is often of the highest