

utility of the bromide treatment. That it does good in many cases, that in some cases it is indispensable I freely grant; but I as firmly believe that it does harm sometimes, and that it can be entirely dispensed with to the advantage of the patient in certain cases. I will first refer to the pharmacology of the drug. How does pot. bromide act in epilepsy? Some still maintain that it is through the blood-vessels, but there is no foundation whatever for that view. The experiments of Albertini have, I think, proved conclusively that it acts simply by depressing the motor activity of the cerebral cortex. Everything that we know of the action of the drug supports the experimental investigations referred to. Now there can be no question that an agent that depresses the reflex activity of the nerve centres cannot fulfill the first and most important indication in the treatment of epilepsy, *i.e.*, increasing the stability of the nerve centres. To neglect this indication is to neglect the first step in the proper treatment. Where the bromides are specially called for and operative are those frequently recurring attacks, say one or two weekly. Here we can with these agents break the habit—in other words, lessen the unconscious memory of the disease. The dose and mode of administration of the bromides is a matter of some importance. As to the quantity necessary, this, as is well known, varies greatly. As a rule, it is seldom advisable to order more than one drachm in the twenty-four hours; the smallest quantity sufficient to break the habit is the best. Formerly I followed the usual practice of giving the bromides after meals, but being influenced by the writings of Seguin, who strongly recommends that it be administered before meals in a weak alkaline water, I followed this practice for some time, but some recent experiences have taught me to rely on the usual method of administration after meals. The only gain in giving an agent on an empty stomach is that it enters the blood more rapidly. Now in these cases there is no necessity for this rapid absorption, and further, I feel satisfied that it is much more apt to disorder the functions of the stomach when given before meals.

Another important point is the frequency of administration. The object aimed at is to keep a sufficient quantity of the drug