

injuries to the head has again been shown at the Vincennes Barracks in a case of fracture of the skull which was not recognized, and was thought to be only a slight injury until the man became rapidly worse and died. Such mistakes must, unfortunately, from time to time occur, although happily they are rare, *Brit. Med. Jour.* The rarity of such accidents of diagnosis in London reflects the greatest credit on the care of the hospital house surgeons. It is practically impossible for the public to realize the many difficulties which often lie in the way in these cases. There is, perhaps, no external injury to act as a guide, and too often the patient is in a condition of complete stupor from drink when brought into the hospital; usually he has been found unconscious, and no reliable history of any injury can be obtained. It is, indeed, scarcely to be wondered at if mistakes should sometimes occur under these conditions, although great care may have been taken to avoid them; and more especially so when it is remembered what a very large number of patients are every day brought in.

A NEW METHOD OF LOCAL ANÆSTHESIA.—The subcutaneous and parenchymatous injection of a weak cocaine-morphine solution, known as Schleich's method of local anæsthesia, seems to have found a good deal of favor with some surgeons. *Med. Press.* Indeed one surgeon is so highly convinced of its efficacy that he read a paper upon the subject before a recent meeting of a medical society, and then and there at the meeting, before the members present, had an injection administered into his forearm, submitted to an incision of the skin an inch in length, and lastly, had the incision sutured without manifesting any feeling of pain. He subsequently admitted that the procedures were absolutely painless, and he expressed the opinion that at least fifty per cent. of the operations now done under general anæsthesia, will ultimately be performed by the aid of this method.

TREATMENT OF DIARRHŒA.—For diarrhœa accompanied by pain and colic, and for diarrhœa which follows immediately after meals, the author, Dr. Shaller, in *Alkaloidal Clinic*, has found a combination of codeine and sulpho-carbolate of zinc efficacious. The combination also acts favor-

ably in those cases in which pain follows immediately after eating and is accompanied by looseness of the bowels. He uses a tablet composed of one grain of sulpho-carbolate of zinc, one and one-fourth of a grain of codeine sulphate, together with a small amount of hyoscyamine and sulphate of strychnine. For children, one of these tablets is dissolved in water, the dose being adapted to the age of the child. The author believes this combination not only prevents decomposition, but diminishes the secretion and checks peristalsis.

PRURITUS OF THE SCROTUM.—Pruritus of the scrotum is a most painful and rebellious affection, and, according to Brocq, constitutes a regular cutaneous neurosis. The itching is sometimes so intolerable that the patient becomes almost delirious. Prof. Procq advises the following treatment:

R—Phenic acid, 3 v.
Glycerin, 3 iss.
Alcohol, 3 j
Water, 3 x. — M

Mix one part of this solution with four of hot water, and steep it in a compress folded eight or ten times, and then apply it to the scrotum, maintaining it in place with an india-rubber suspensory bandage.

As a general treatment he gives antipyrine in small doses (ten grains repeated twice in the afternoon), and valerianate of ammonia at night.

ACCURATE ADMINISTRATION OF LITHIA.—Wm. R. Warner & Co.'s original Lithia Water Tablets (3 and 5 grains) admit of an accurate dosage of Lithia not to be obtained in any natural Lithia Water. These tablets are securely packed so as to maintain their permanency, in consequence of which, when a Lithia Water Tablet is placed in a glass of water it quickly dissolves, effervescing in so lively a manner as to excite the interest of the patient to such a degree, that the unpleasant thought that he is about to take a medicine, does not arise. Now that Lithia has become a valuable remedy for rheumatism, lithemia, gout, gravel, Bright's disease, etc., these tablets are without doubt the most convenient method to administer it, as enough Lithia Water Tablets may be carried in the pocket to make 2½ gallons Lithia Water of definite strength.