

Epilepsy and Paralysis, Dr. Bennett had had a large experience in the treatment of epilepsy. He writes: "The present enquiry is the result of an experience of 300 cases of epilepsy treated by myself with the bromides of potassium and ammonium. In all of these the clinical facts, as well as the progress of the malady, were carefully studied and recorded. The general conclusions arrived at were as follows: In 12.1 per cent. of epileptics the attacks were completely arrested during the whole period of treatment by the bromides. In 83.3 per cent. the attacks were greatly diminished, both in number and severity. In 2.3 per cent. the treatment had no apparent effect. In 2.3 per cent. the number of attacks was augmented during the period of treatment."

He further adds: "The form of the disease, whether inherited or not, whether complicated or not, recent or chronic, in the young or in the old, in healthy or diseased persons, appeared in no way to influence the treatment, the success being nearly in the same ratio under all these conditions."

In the same paper he gives a table showing the effects of the continuous administration of the bromides in the epileptic state in 141 cases.

At the end of one year in 51 cases the physical and mental powers were unaffected in 39, impaired in 6, bromide eruption in 8.

At end of two years in 34 cases the physical and mental powers were unaffected in 28, impaired in 2, bromide eruption in 6.

At the end of three years in 30 cases the physical and mental powers were unaffected in 28, impaired in 1, bromide eruption in 3.

At end of four years in 16 cases the physical and mental powers were unaffected in 12, impaired in none, bromide eruption in 2.

At end of five years in 6 cases the physical and mental powers were unaffected in the whole 6. No eruption.

At end of 6 years in 4 cases the physical and mental powers were unaffected in the whole 4. No eruption.

Minimum dose given was $1\frac{1}{2}$ drachms daily, viz., 15 grs. each of bromides of potassium and ammonium three times a day.

It must be remembered that the effects of epileptic fits on the physical and mental powers resemble considerably those attributed

to the use of the bromides, so possibly the latter have often been blamed for symptoms which were the result of the disease.

I have been in the habit of combining the bromides with other drugs. Vegetable bitters for the stomach's sake, and Fowler's solution to counteract tendency to bromide eruption and also as a tonic.

Dr. Hughes Bennett states that the form of the disease, age of patient, etc., did not seem to affect result of treatment. However, some good authorities claim that epilepsy of childhood is much less benefited by treatment than when it appears later in life, and I know among the epileptic insane, nocturnal epilepsy is not so amenable to treatment as when the fits occur in the daytime. It is well in these cases to add digitalis to the mixture and also give a double dose of the bromides at bedtime.

The female epileptic insane are not benefited by the bromide treatment to the same extent as the men. Fortunately for the former sex, epileptic insanity is not nearly so common as among the male sex, although, according to Gowers, there are six female epileptics to every five male in the world.

If the bromides fail it is well to try other remedies, but I think in most cases it is wise to combine them with the bromides. Among the more prominent of the drugs that have done good are digitalis, belladonna, chloral hydrate, ergot, oxide of zinc, iron, nitro-glycerine, nitrate of soda, etc.

In March of last year Dr. Seguin, of Providence, R.I., in a series of lectures delivered before the Medical Society of Toronto University, gave in detail the treatment of epilepsy. He said: "In undertaking the care of a case of this affection you should stipulate for plenty of time to study the case in all its aspects, and for rather frequent visits at first for the purpose of adjusting the doses, securing proper hygiene, etc." He adds: "Remember that you are prescribing the drug, not against the disease as a sort of entity or tangible enemy, but for the individual patient to reduce the excitability of parts of his nervous system to a certain point. The susceptibility of persons to the action of bromides varies very greatly. From these two considerations you readily perceive how delicate a matter it is to find the right dose for a given