

In one such case, associated with valvular disease of the heart, it succeeded after other remedies failed. The tonic effect so much spoken of was not marked. It is slightly sedative and anodyne, and was found serviceable in chronic catarrh of the stomach. The bromide was found to allay headache, convulsive movements, and to act satisfactorily as a sedative to the nervous system. In epilepsy it acted quite as well as any of the bromides, and in one instance it succeeded after the others had failed to afford any relief. It lowers the temperature and reduces the pulse slightly. The dose is five to ten grains, a smaller one than that of the bromides generally being sufficient to produce the desired effect. The value of rhus toxicodendron as a remedy of the greatest certainty in rheumatism, has been brought to the notice of the profession by Dr. Gifford, of Indiana. He prefers the freshly prepared alcoholic extract, which he gives in small doses night and morning. Among the remedies for sea-sickness proposed from time to time, may be mentioned the hypodermic injection of from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a grain of acetate of morphine, which Mr. Vincent, of the Cunard Royal mail service, claims is by far the most useful of all remedial measures. The use of naphthol in the cure of scabies, has received special attention from Dr. Harlinger, of Philadelphia, (*Am. Jour. Med. Sciences*) who speaks of it as the most efficient and agreeable remedy for scabies, yet brought forward. It was first introduced to the profession two years ago, by Prof. Kaposi, of Vienna. It is useful also in a certain number of skin affections, such as squamous eczema of the scalp, psoriasis, and seborrhoea. A substitute for morphine has been discovered in a leguminous plant called *piscidia erythrina*, which grows in the volcanic soil of Jamaica. It takes its name from its property of narcotizing fishes—a property taken advantage of by the natives. Its properties have been investigated by M. Landowsky (*Gaz. Hebdom.*, August 31, '83). He used the alcoholic extract of the bark, the administration of which in 40 minim doses, was followed by a calm sleep of twelve hours. The advantages claimed for it are, that it does not cause headache, or malaise, and does not constipate. The latest method of treating sebaceous cysts, known as Vidal's method, consists in injecting from five to ten drops of ether into the sac. The point of the needle should be moved

about after it has penetrated the tumor, so as to break up the sebaceous matter. This is to be repeated every second day until signs of inflammation appear. A puncture is then made at the base of the tumor and a small amount of pus escapes, followed by the sebaceous matter, after which the sac shrivels up and disappears. The use of caffeine in heart disease, although in use by many physicians, has not become general in this country yet. Prof. Lepine (*Lyon Medicale*) urges its use in all cases where digitalis is found valuable. He thinks the dose should be larger than has heretofore been administered. He gives from ten to thirty grains in divided doses during the day. It is much better borne and is more active than digitalis. Some attention has been paid during the year to the administration of remedies by small and frequently repeated doses, and Dr. Smith, of Bellevue Hospital, published a very interesting article on this subject in the *N. Y. Med. Journal*. The result of his experience seems to point in the direction of the efficacy of small doses often repeated, and will no doubt lead to a further trial of this plan of treatment. Paraldehyde, the new hypnotic, has been made the subject of investigation. In physiological action it strongly resembles chloral. A dose of 40 grains produces quiet refreshing sleep for from four to seven hours. It strengthens the heart's action, gives rise to no unpleasant symptoms, and it is believed that it will to a large extent take the place of chloral. A new method has been brought to the notice of the profession for the treatment of obstinate granular conjunctivitis. It consists in the application of a lotion composed of infusion of jequirity seeds, which produces ophthalmia of a croupous nature, and rapidly cures the granulations. The intensity of the inflammation can be regulated by the strength and frequency of application of the infusion.

In the field of surgery, general and operative, much progress has been made, both in the matter of perfecting well known operative procedures and in the application of new methods. The method of treating floating kidney by "fixation" has been put into practice by Dr. Newman, of Glasgow. The kidney was cut down upon, external to the outer edge of the quadratus lumborum and the organ stitched to the margins of the wound, where it formed adhesions which held it in place. The case reported was quite successful. Dr. Weir