

be more rapid in the parasite. The intestinal contents of the host must be expelled at an early enough period after taking the remedy to prevent the absorption of the surplus drug or that of the poisoned worms. At present thymol is one of the most toxic vermicides for hookworm. It is easy to obtain, keeps well, is cheap, easily administered and kills the parasites instead of merely paralyzing them. When taken under the care of a physician who is careful to gauge the dose to the condition of the patient, it seems to be the best all-round remedy thus far studied. While dangerous in large doses it differs from beta-naphthol, male fern and chloroform in that the danger is at once apparent, and can be controlled by heart stimulants and methods that help maintain a good blood-pressure until the drug has killed the parasite and a cathartic has removed the excess of thymol. With the other remedies mentioned the danger signals are less obvious, and irreparable damage may be done before the peril is detected. Beta-naphthol is probably the next pure chemical substance that ought to be tried more extensively on human hookworm patients. Those affected with kidney lesions should not take it, and the urine should be frequently examined. If the maximum amount of 2 to 4 gm., given in two doses, an hour apart, does not cause renal disturbances it has much to recommend it as a hookworm remedy. Male fern does not give much promise in this country owing to the unreliability of the preparations obtainable here. This would probably be remedied, however, if there was much demand for it. He does not find reliable data as regards the value of Hermann's mixture, and seems to prefer instead a simple chloroform and castor oil combination, which, if it should act as favorably in human beings as it has for him in dogs, may turn out a valuable universal worm remedy. The real remedy for hookworm disease, however, is the proper disposal of all fecal matter, so that infection is rendered impossible.

EPILEPSY.

R. H. Spangler (*N. Y. M. J.*) reports his results in the croctalin treatment of 36 cases of epilepsy. These cases were given 1-200 grain of rattlesnake venom hypodermically at intervals of five to seven days. This venom treatment is indicated in the idiopathic form of the disease. Under this treatment the character of the convulsions is modified, the interval between the attacks lengthened, and both the mental and physical condition of the patient improved. A solution of the venom of definite and uniform strength should be used.