

the skull, the bit being guarded to prevent it penetrating into the brain substance.

This bit being withdrawn, the needle of a hypodermic syringe (*twice as large as the ordinary needle*) is to be introduced into the brain. If a tumor is present, the needle will convey a feeling of resistance; if no solid tumor is present, the needle must be gradually forced more and more deeply into the brain, the piston being retracted at intervals in order that any liquid at the point of the needle may be withdrawn and examined. Dr. Souchon has convinced himself by experiments on dogs that such a procedure is quite safe. He points out the advantage, that several points in the brain may be explored at the same sitting. He thinks the day will come when the skull will be drilled in cases of cerebral hemorrhage, and the blood aspirated here as in other situations. The editor of the *Med. Jour.* says: If Dr. Souchon's suggestions prove to be reliable, the method will be of great value in the application of electric currents to different regions of the brain, the insulated electrodes being introduced through the drill-holes into the brain, and the effects of the stimulus noted, as regards muscular movements, sensations, etc. This would lead to great advances in cerebral localizations.—*Med. Med. and Surgical Journal.*

SULPHONAL IN INSOMNIA.—E. H. Kisch reports the results of his administration of sulphonal in 24 cases. The most favorable action was seen in 12 nervous individuals suffering from insomnia, the result of various conditions of excitement. In these a dose of from 7 to 15 grains was sufficient, after one-half to two and one-half hours, to produce sleep, lasting through all, or the greater part, of the night. He admits that the psychic influence of the administration of a hypnotic must be taken into account in many of these cases. In 6 cases there was no hypnotic action obtained even in doses of 30 grains. In 3 cases—i.e., 12.5 per cent.—unpleasant effects were observed. One of these patients was suffering from hemiplegia, the result of an apoplectic stroke, which had occurred a short time before. Morphine had proved valueless in producing sleep, but 15 grains of sul-

phonal induced sleep lasting the entire night. On the next morning, however, the patient was completely aphasic, and this condition gradually disappeared only after 8 to 10 hours, the patient meanwhile feeling very weak. The second patient, after taking 45 grains in divided doses during the night, felt wretched and exceedingly weak on the following morning, and complained of a feeling of great depression and as though the senses were leaving him. The pulse was also retarded, beating only 38 in the minute. The third patient, a man of sixty-two years of age, had often used morphine and chloral for sleep without effect. After 15 grains of sulphonal deep sleep came on, lasting the whole night. On the next day, however, the patient was horrified to find that he had had a nocturnal seminal emission, the first for over ten years. He also felt sleepy the whole day, and stupefied, and could not get up.—*Berlin klin. Wocher.*, No. 7, 1889.

CHLORIDE OF AMMONIUM IN NEURALGIA.—W. T. Greene, M.D., writes: A gentleman recently called at my house, who said he had been suffering from neuralgia in the head and neck, left side, for fifteen weeks without a day's intermission, and that the pain was getting worse instead of better. He said that he had been prescribed for by several medical men, with scarcely any alleviation of his sufferings. He produced a bundle of prescriptions which rang the changes upon sulphate of magnesia, quinine and iron. I made him up a mixture of chloride of ammonium, twenty grains to the dose, which he took away with him. The next evening the gentleman called to say that he had taken what I had given him, and, for the first time for fifteen weeks, had passed a day without pain, having felt an improvement after taking the first dose of the medicine. He begged for another bottle as he was afraid the neuralgia might return, so I gave it to him, but he did not take the whole of it, and has had no return of the neuralgia since. Chloride of ammonium is a very simple, most valuable, and strangely neglected drug, which I have never known to fail in the treatment of neuralgia.—*Med. Press*, London, Sept. 12.