

# THE MARITIME MEDICAL NEWS

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## **Fibrolysin Treatment in Deform- ities.**

In the *Lancet*, January 23, 1909, Dr. Bannatyne of Bath, recommends the use of fibrolysin in the treatment of deformities and contractions arising from chronic joint conditions. He says it is not of any use in acute cases, or while disease is active. It does not relieve pain but "does help in a most wonderful way in quiescent cases in allowing joints to be used which have for months and years been quite stiff.

Fibrolysin is a double salt of thio-sinamin and sodium salicylate. It has been found useful in the treatment of Dupuytren's contraction of the palmar fascia. Dr. Bannatyne recommends the subcutaneous injection of forty minims twice a week. It may be injected into the arm, leg or loin. It is not advisable to inject it near a joint. It causes some pain and tingling, and in some cases a good deal of pain with redness and swelling. No bad constitutional effects have been noted. As a rule no improvement is seen until four or five injections have been given and from thirty to forty injections are generally needed. Along with the use of fibrolysin Dr. Bannatyne recommends baths and massage, and he says results are obtained which in his experience cannot be attained of any other means.



## **Treatment of Epilepsy.**

In the *British Medical Journal* for January 23, 1909, there is an interesting note on the treatment of epileptics, by a salt-free diet, or rather by a diet in which the place of sodium

chloride is taken by sodium bromide. The Bradford guardians separated the sane epileptics in their work-house from the rest and set them to work, in the grounds, under the care of an attendant, with the view of improving their condition and making them useful. In addition, at the suggestion of Dr. Goyder, chairman of the Hospitals Committee, Bradford Poor-law Union, the sodium bromide treatment, with exclusion of common salt, was instituted, to the exclusion of all other medicines. The treatment was decidedly satisfactory.

The guardians were however, much impressed with the belief that, if these patients were removed to the country, where they could live and work in the open air, no medicines would be required. The sane epileptics were accordingly removed to a house in the country, where they were pleasantly situated, and engaged in light out-of-door occupation, and all medical treatment was abandoned. It was found that the fits now increased and grew progressively worse as time went on. Dr. Goyder made up his mind that this state of things and this test of "place" should be put an end to, and the dietetic treatment, in which sodium bromide takes the place of common salt was strictly carried into effect. The administration of the salt is not limited to a definite amount taken three times a day with meals. but the bread is made specially for patients, an equivalent amount of the bromide salt being used in place of the chloride. The result was a confirmation of the belief that this form