

# Miscellaneous.

## HEROIN IN COUGH.

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Among the newer drugs which have within a year appeared on the market, and to which the attention of physicians has been called, Heroin appears to be one of the best. Dreser and Floret published their experiments with this new derivative of morphine in the *Therapeutische Monatshefte* for September, 1898, in which they stated that Heroin not only very much modifies and quiets the cough, but also that the frequency of respiration was lessened and the inspirations prolonged. The same authors state that Heroin has a more sedative effect upon respiration than morphine, and is ten times more powerful than codeine.

Leo (*Brit. Med. Jour.*, April 20th, 1899) also discusses the value of Heroin. He states that the drug has a particular action on the respiratory centres, lessening the frequency but increasing the depth of breathing. He says that its narcotic action is much less than morphine; and thus in sciatica, neuralgia, cardialgia, including the pain due to gastric nerve and muscular rheumatism, Heroin did not relieve the pain, or did so only momentarily. Leo found the action of this drug exceptionally satisfactory in the various forms of dyspnea; it increases the duration of inspiration and the amount of air taken in. He cites a number of cases, among them two cases of uremic dyspnea, some of emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and asthma, and says that in all but three cases out of thirty the results were good. He also says that Heroin can be used with confidence, and will be permanently found to be a valuable remedy, in diseases accompanied by dyspnea.

During the last ten months I have used Heroin in more than thirty cases, mostly with good results. In acute bronchitis I used it in adults as well as children with much satisfaction. In chronic bronchitis and in phthisis the drug has in most cases given good results, and failed in only three.

Miss W. H., aged 13, contracted a heavy cold in December, 1898. After administering the usual remedies, the patient had still, after three weeks, a distressing cough with tenacious expectoration. I ordered Heroin, 1-24th grain, three times a day. After forty-eight hours the patient reported the cough decidedly better, and the expectoration much lessened. After a week's treatment the cough had disappeared.