

it. Dr. Gibson condemns the method of keeping a narcotised patient awake by walking him about as dangerous. It does certainly appear to be a crude and exhausting way of keeping a person awake. The same end, without exhaustion, may be obtained by the use of the electric brush. An important point to attend to in the treatment of opium poisoning, is to feed the patient and prevent the loss of heat.

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—From the numerous instances of a history of injury given by parents in cases of polio-myelitis, it is fair to assume that this disease may be at times due to traumatism. At a recent meeting of the Medical Society of London, Dr. C. E. Beever exhibited a boy, aged 12, who presented the symptoms of a limited atrophic paralysis of the left arm and spinate muscles coming on after a fall on the left elbow joint. Owing to the absence of any history of anesthesia, the cause of the paralysis was considered by Dr. Beever to be due to a polio-myelitis. An important diagnostic feature in this case was a paralysis of the pectoralis major for one movement and not for another. The clavicular part of this muscle acted in the adduction of the humerus, but it failed to contract in raising up the arm when advanced. This would be in favor of a polio-myelitis, as muscles are functionally grouped in the grey matter.

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### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

In ancient Rome, the worship of Æsculapius, imported from Greece, was almost universal, and the brotherhood of the *Asclepiadæ* formed a vast organization, resembling in many respects the Christian priesthood, with temples, which served the double purpose of shrine and hospital. The temple of the God at Athens has recently been excavated, and in the *British Medical Journal* of Nov. 10th a tantalisingly brief account is given in an abstract of a lecture by Miss Jane Harrison "On Hospitals among the Greeks."

In his delightful story, *Marius the Epicurean*, Mr. Walter Pater gives an admirable description of the organization of, and modes of practice in, these great establishments, at one of which, in the Etrurian hills, Marius sought relief from some boyish sickness. A paragraph of the chapter is worth quoting