

critical, challenging attitude, followed by individual experiments, is needed with every fresh discovery. Here authority ranks no higher than opinion—it serves only as introduction or recommendation.

Antitoxin is absolutely without the pale of science. It ranks with gross superstitions like the King's touch, exorcism for devils, the use of various animal excrements, etc., for therapeutic ends.

A doctor uses antitoxin in a few cases; his patients improve and get well. He forthwith declares antitoxin a wonderful remedy. He ignores the fact that another doctor has used plain carbolic acid in his diphtheria cases with equally good results. He goes on to quote statistics of favorable mortality, when he knows, if he stops to think of it, that they are the natural results of mild epidemics, represent cases of every kind of throat disease, and many who were injected merely for immunizing purposes.

Partisan feeling has played a most strenuous part in helping antitoxin along. It has drawn to its support all professors of bacteriology, the combined efforts of serum manufacturers and health boards to whom it has furnished political capital.

But the true scientific spirit of inquiry is at last awake in the mass of the profession and will follow antitoxin to its tomb.—Medical Brief.

The acknowledgment of the therapeutic value of carbolic acid in diphtheria, is at this late day a glowing tribute to the genius of Hahnemann and Homœopathy; also another illustration of the "regular" school's appropriation of century old Homœopathic knowledge and advocacy thereof under the guise of "new discoveries" in the healing art.

Nitro-glycerine has a wonderful effect in postpartum hemorrhage, says the Medical Summary.

AN EXPERIENCE WITH COFFEEA CRUDA.

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For several years I believed that in order to produce sleep in people who were suffering from insomnia it was necessary to give drugs which affect that result by their physiological action. That the reverse is true is a fact which came to me through a heavy fog of scepticism.

Psychological force and hygienic measures play a very important part in most of those cases. It was with more confidence in the effect on the patient's imagination than loyalty to the laws of similars that led me to find some truth that was worth knowing.

I often met instances where it was necessary to give the patient something to "wake her sleep." When those requests are made it quite as often seems necessary to withhold any measures or drugs which would produce depression or secondary effects. From a psychological standpoint a powder of Sac lac fills the bill exactly, but it does not always work. Neither does anything else always work. However, if a dynamic force can only be added to the psychological the sword is two-edged.

With this hope in view, I cast about for an inter-current remedy whose three-legged stool indications would fill the requirements on which to base the prescription.

The patients to which I refer were nervous creatures obviously. Nervous by temperament, nervous by mode of living. They were strung up to high tension—high pressure. The safety valve would not let go, while every external impression only acted as a riddle bow to keep the vibrations singing.

One such person was a young woman of about twenty-three, born of nervous parents, who lived a daily life of hurry and excitement. She consulted me because, she said, she had "flat-irons in her stomach and could not sleep." I found that the flat-irons took up their abode in her stomach only after she had been at some social function, or after some experience which to her was an excitement. She could not sleep because she "could not stop thinking." Every noise, ever odor seemed exaggerated. During the search for symptoms I asked her if she could "hear cocks crowing and clocks striking in the distance?" While she naturally took that symptom as a joke, I found that all of her senses were over-active. A cup of coffee taken in the evening would keep her awake all night. She was apt to have a nervous cough at any time.