

comfort to the mother, but for the protection they afford our patient from convulsive accidents. Bromide of potassium has been much used, and while it is of benefit in quieting the nervous system, bromide of soda is a better preparation, as the potash itself, as derived from tissue metabolism at least, has decided convulsive properties. Morphia hypodermically is one of our most reliable remedies, but must be given in full doses, from one-quarter to three-quarters of a grain, and repeated as necessary. Besides being in itself very reliable, we may at the same time, if necessary, give chloroform, verat. virid, nitroglycerine or amyl nitrate, all of which have been found very useful, and one or other of them relied on as an essential part of their treatment by many practitioners. The morphia acts by dulling the nerve centres, and acting as a counter poison to the convulsive substances retained in the blood.

The other remedies above mentioned seem to act by lowering arterial tension and bleeding the patient into her own vessels. In this way the waste products from the tissues are not carried so rapidly from their source to the nerve centres. Brisk cathartics such as croton oil, jalap, eleterium and sulphate of magnesia may be given.

In the writer's experience sulphate of magnesia is the best. If patient is unable to swallow it may be introduced into the stomach through the stomach tube, and repeated until the desired results are obtained. It may at the same time be used as an enema. While being more certain in its action than croton oil or eleterium, it is safer to repeat.

The advantage of the cathartic is twofold: it removes poisonous matters from the blood, and prevents the absorption of other poisons from the intestinal tract. The kidneys may be acted upon by drinking water, if patient is conscious; if not, by a rectal injection of a normal saline solution, or the injection of the same into the cellular tissue or veins. Injected into the cellular tissue the normal saline solution acts as an efficient diuretic, and washes out the system better than any other means at our disposal, and besides it is easy of execution and requires very little knowledge of technique, and no costly apparatus. As a means of lowering the arterial tension, and at the same time eliminating a considerable amount of poison, blood-letting should not be forgotten.

Bouchard estimated that a bleeding of 32 g. equalled in eliminative power a sweating of 100 g., or a watery discharge from the bowels of 280 g. Bleeding has the advantage that it can be done at once, and while you are waiting for the action of other measures. After the bleeding the vessels may be again filled by the normal saline solution, as mentioned above. In any case we should not depend on any one remedy or class of remedies, but should combine sedatives and narcotics with eliminatives in the most judicial manner for the case in hand, and thus produce the most prompt and efficient action.