

divisions and sub-divisions which they make of the disease are not met with in ordinary practice. It would seem as if they lived in a world of their own, where, possibly, because they do a large consulting practice, peculiar cases are sent to them. So far as my experience enables me to observe, and it has extended over forty years, I have not been able to diagnose any special features in the cases which have come under my observation. Practically, all have had the same symptoms, the only difference being one of degree. Until the introduction of the treatment of this disease by the bromide of potash, the unfortunate sufferer received little or no benefit from the drugs employed. The routine was the administration of anti-spasmodics, such as valerian, ether and musk. It was about fifty years ago that the bromide of potash was recommended to the profession, and, even when ten years later I entered the profession, it was the drug which apparently had given the best results. Some absolute cures were recorded. I well remember the late Dr. Waburton Begbie, of Edinburgh, telling me that one of the brightest intellects at the Scotch Bar, who had developed epilepsy in early youth, had been cured by this medicine. From that day up to the present time it has been the drug which has been prescribed in seventy-five per cent. of all cases. Bromide of sodium has, with some, taken its place, while a combination of bromide of potash, bromide of soda and bromide of ammonium, in the proportion of 1. 1. 1-2 is the favourite of a few. There are, of course, others which are recommended, such as belladonna, ergot, hydrobromic acid, nitro glycerine. But to-day the bromides are still the stand-byes of the profession in this disease, and yet I fail to learn that many absolute cures are recorded, though I freely admit that in many cases they have diminished the frequency and severity of the attacks. If they have done more. I do not know it. I have prescribed it sometimes alone and sometimes in combination with the other bromide salts, because, perhaps, to be honest, I knew no better treatment. My experience extends to about twenty-five cases; some have died from some inter-current disease (I never have had a death during a convulsion), and some