

If delirium or convulsions ensue, in addition to the use of eliminative remedies, as elaterium, hypodermic injections of Magendie's solution of morphia are given, with the object of lessening the sensibility of the nervous centres to the action of the blood-poison. This treatment, suggested by Prof. Loomis, seems to be efficient in a large proportion of cases. In uræmic coma, stimulating enemata, with the hot-air bath, are the means usually adopted.

#### *Delirium Tremens.*

In cases of injury complicated with this trouble, Dr. Griffith, of the third surgical division, is in the habit of giving as a drink, in twenty-four hours, infus. artemisiæ absinth. Oij; also giving porter. On other divisions, chloral hydrate is given, associated with bromide of potassium, as in the following:

R Chloral-hydrat., 3 ij;  
Potass. bromid., 3 iv;  
Aq. cinnamomi, 3 ij. M.

S. one teaspoonful every half hour until sleep occurs.

Usually only a few doses are required to produce this result.

#### *Cholera Infantum.*

If the disease have reached the cold stage, the best results are obtained by the administration of the "eau albumineuse," prepared by dropping the white of an egg in a teacup half full of water, gently stirring [not beating], until the albumen is dissolved. To this brandy is added, so that each drachm contains from two to five drops, varying with the age of the child. A teaspoonful is given every half hour, the patient being also wrapped in blankets, and the surface stimulated by applications of ol. camphorat.—*Philadelphia Medical Times.*

#### THE VALUE OF SODIC BROMIDE AS A NERVOUS SEDATIVE.

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Bromide of sodium, although known to have a therapeutic action analogous to that of the bromide of potassium, has lately somewhat fallen into disuse, while the latter salt has been recommended as a remedy for nearly every disease. The bromide of sodium has a pungent saline taste, is freely soluble in water, and forms a colorless solution. Shortly after it is taken into the stomach, a burning sensation is experienced at the epigastrium; this quickly passes off, giving place to drowsiness and sleep, followed by numbness in the extremities, which does not disappear until several hours after waking.

The following cases illustrate its beneficial action in nervous diseases. Fred. B., æt. 21 years, came under treatment for epilepsy, November 13, 1872. From early childhood the attacks had occurred three or four times weekly. He was treated for the first month with thirty-grain doses of bromide of potassium thrice daily, combined with one-third of a grain of extract of belladonna at night. As the attacks diminished but little in frequency, a seton was inserted in the back of the neck; for a short

time after this the fits appeared to be less frequent and severe, but, as he complained of lowness of spirits and debility, one grain each of sulphate of iron and sulphate of zinc were ordered to be taken three times daily. This was continued only one week, as the symptoms returned with their former severity. Bromide of potassium was resumed, in forty-grain doses: this, with the addition of succus conii and a fresh seton, composed the treatment up to May 22, 1873, no effect being produced. On the 22nd he was ordered three grains of bromide of sodium three times a day; and during the next week he had only two fits. On May 29 each dose was increased to fifteen grains, and on June 5 to twenty grains: in the interval he had several attacks of "petit mal," but no marked epileptic seizures. After this he improved much in general health, and had but one fit. In another case, a boy 14 years old, who had been subject to epilepsy from birth, after subduing the paroxysms by taking ten grains of bromide of potassium three times daily, suffered no return on the substitution of three-grain doses of the bromide of sodium, although he felt much depressed.

In a third case of epilepsy, the fits were checked by taking daily fifteen grains of the salt in three doses; here also general depression was marked. This depression of spirits very frequently accompanies the use of the medicine in a watery solution, and might possibly be counteracted by the administration of a tonic in combination.

In two cases of nervous excitement due to mental anxiety, and in one of epileptic vertigo, small doses of the bromide produced great relief, while in a case of insomnia in an old man it appeared to do harm. We have, therefore, in sodic bromide, where judiciously used, a valuable nervous sedative.—*Practitioner, August, 1873.*

#### ON SIMPLE VERTIGO.

In a paper read before the Yorkshire Branch of the British Medical Association, and published in the *British Medical Journal* for July 26, 1873, Dr. Clifford Allbutt records ten cases of simple vertigo, and makes the following comments upon them. The only constant symptom in the cases was vertigo. All of them were males, and, as far as could be made out, the giddiness was not symptomatic of any other disease or disorder. The vertigo was often very distressing and very rebellious to treatment. The average age of the patients was 44.7 years; but there was no evidence of any degenerative changes either in the arteries or other tissues. The vertigo, after lasting for months or years, disappears without any other nervous or other disease being developed. There was no loss of consciousness in any of the cases recorded. "One patient suffered from migraine, which ceased about the time of the onset of the vertigo; another belonged to a neurotic family. Many of them were men of anxious or irritable temperament, or placed in positions of anxiety and heavy responsibility. In another patient, also a male, there was some hysteria." In some of the