

NITRO-GLYCERIN IN EPILEPSY.

According to Eliot Bates, of New York, and others, the hypodermic use of nitro-glycerin is of great utility in relieving the paroxysms of epilepsy.

The beneficial results which follow the administration of nitro-glycerin in angina pectoris, such as the rapid relief of those headaches accompanied by small wiry pulse, pallor of the face and sudden faintness, and often the relief of a severe neuralgia, led to the question, can nitro-glycerin be utilized to relieve the arterial spasm of the epileptic attack, thereby to establish consciousness, relieve the convulsive movements, prevent the after exhaustion, and to prevent, as far as possible, the ill-effects of the anæmia of the brain?

The utility of this drug and nitrite of amyl has long been recognized at the beginning of an attack as soon as the least suspicion of aura arises, i. e., to abort the attack—but its use after the attack has been established, when the sufferer lies with rigid limbs and unconscious, has not been advocated prior to Dr. Bates' paper upon the subject. He uses the hypodermic method of medication, and finds it most successful.

In the first case the patient had been afflicted for four years. At this time he lay as he had fallen, rigid, and totally unconscious, with violent muscular convulsions, and all the concomitant symptoms of an epileptic attack.

A hypodermic injection of one-hundredth of a grain of nitro-glycerin was given, and before the needle was withdrawn total relaxation took place, consciousness was restored, and the patient asked for a glass of water.

In the second case, seen four times, the method proved of great value, as the patient was a terror to all from his violence during the attacks. The use of the drug was followed by an immediate restoration of consciousness. The method has been pursued in twelve cases without a single failure. In all the cases the after-effects of the attack were markedly lessened, the patient recovered without the fatigue and general demoralization usual to epilepsy. It is not claimed by Bates that the method is curative. It does shorten the attack, saves fatigue, and he believes has some in lessening the frequency of the attacks.

The after treatment consists in the administration of the bromides in a bitter infusion, hops being preferred, and the use of minute doses of nitro-glycerin.

THE INFLUENCE OF THYROID ON THE NUTRITION OF THE SKIN.

We have heard a great deal of late months, about the curative effects of thyroid feeding in that formerly incurable disease, myxœdema. There can be no doubt, from the accumulated evidence of scientific observers, that thyroid feeding does induce a very marked change in the nutrition of the skin, not only in myxœdema but also in sporadic cretinism. Byron Bramwell reports, *Br. Med. Jour.*, that in 11 cases of myxœdema, and 3 of sporadic cretinism, the effect of the treatment was always desquamation of the skin, particularly of the palms and soles, varying in amount according to the greater or lesser quantity of the gland taken by the patient. Influenced by this consideration, he determined to try the same remedy in psoriasis.

The results have been well marked, and very encouraging. Several cases were treated, sometimes by a quarter of a raw thyroid, finely minced and concealed in rice paper given daily, and sometimes by five drops of Brady & Martin's thyroid extract, also given daily. Only two cases were not entirely cured, one of them being complicated by frequently recurring attacks of epilepsy, for which the patient was taking, during the whole course of thyroid treatment, full doses of bromide of potassium, which was probably the cause of the failure. In the other case, though the lesion disappeared from time to time under the thyroid treatment, it more than once reappeared. Dr. Bramwell sees no reason to doubt that this plan of treatment will be of great value in various skin diseases, especially in exfoliative dermatitis.

MEDICAL NOTES.

FOR GRANULAR EYELIDS, Dr. G. S. Ryerson, *Therap. Gazette*, recommends the following, applied at night, *Coll. and Clin. Rec.*:—

R—Hydrargyri oxid. flavi, . . .	gr. iv.
Zinci oxid.,	gr. ij.
Thymol,	ʒ ij.
Camphor.,	gr. ss.
Cocain, muriat.,	gr. ij.
Vaseline,	ʒ j.—M.

Dr. Gilles de la Tourette claims that a diagnosis between hysterical EPILEPSY and that due to neo-