

extended, all forms of inflammatory action assumed an asthenic type, and typhoid symptoms were sure to develop. The writer then took up the nature of the epidemic, after which he gave an account of the treatment adopted. This was chiefly of an expectant nature with special treatment of an ordinary kind for the ordinary symptoms. A discussion followed, the general idea being that the epidemic was one of typhoid. Some conversation also took place on the question of what constituted typhoid fever, and whether it could exist without the special enteric symptoms.

NOVA SCOTIA MEDICAL SOCIETY.

This Society met at Halifax on Wednesday, June 17th, the President, Dr. Macpherson, of North Sydney, C.B., in the chair. Dr. Sinclair read an interesting paper on "New Remedies in Insanity and other Diseases of the Nervous System," and reviewed the evidence in favour of the four following remedies: 1. Paraldehyde. This drug was first introduced by Cernello, of Palermo, in 1882. It is formed from an aldehyde or dehydrogenated alcohol by the action of an acid, and has the formula $C_6H_{12}O_3$. When acted upon by chlorine it is said to be converted into chloral. It is a sedative and hypnotic, and its advocates claim that it has all the good qualities of chloral without its dangers. No nausea, depression or headache have been known to follow its free administration. The taste is disagreeable and difficult to disguise; the best vehicle is ice water in large quantity. The dose of paraldehyde is 3ss. to 3i. Dr. Andrews, who had experimented largely with the drug, thought it supplied no demand not already met by other agents, which had their own advantages. 2. Nitro-Glycerine, or Glonoine. The theory of its action is, that it reduces arterial tension by paralyzing the vaso-motor nerves, thereby dilating the blood vessels. It has been recommended in angina pectoris, valvular disease, weak dilated heart, albuminuria, chronic Bright's disease, asthma, epilepsy, migraine, and some forms of insanity. Dr. Sinclair's experience both with this drug and with nitrite of amyl, was that in epilepsy the number of fits were increased. 3. Jamaica dogwood (*Piscidia Erythrina*). He used it in doses of fifteen minims to 3ij. of the fluid extract. As an hypnotic it failed but proved satisfactory as an anodyne. In the severe frontal headache of epileptics, one drachm doses either alone or in combination with bromide

of potassium or chloral produced unquestionable benefit. In two cases of dysmenorrhœa, relief of most agonizing pain was speedily obtained. 4. Hyoscyamine and hyoscine. The writer began his experiments with the crystals, using a solution in glycerine and alcohol, and giving it in doses of $\frac{1}{6}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of a grain. In acute mania he produced the full physiological effects, and even when its toxic effects were present only temporary quiet was produced. Pushed to this extent grave symptoms were produced, such as irregular pulse and respiration, congestion of the head and face, cyanosis and dryness of the mouth and fauces. The freshly made fluid extract of hyoscyamus in doses of 3ss. to 3iss. gave much better results. He has practically discarded the crystals. The amorphous hyoscyamine is essentially distinct from the crystals and consists of at least two crystallizable salts, and to this compound it is proposed to apply the name hyoscine. It is a feeble sedative to the spinal and respiratory nerve centres and a dominant hypnotic upon the brain. In doses of $\frac{1}{100}$ gr. hypodermically it produces calm and sometimes sleep. Dr. Wood used it in nine cases of insanity with great violence and sleeplessness. In all cases quiet resulted and in some sleep, varying from 4 to 6 hours. He recommends it in asthma, whooping cough, and delirium tremens.

A discussion followed in which Drs. Parker, J. F. Black, Smith and Lindsay took part.

Dr. Farrell read a paper on "Excision of Joints," and gave the results of cases treated by him in the Halifax Hospital. Two patients were exhibited in whom the elbow had been excised with excellent results. The other cases referred to were, two of the knee and three of the hip. He laid great stress upon operating before suppuration began to discharge externally. For scrofulous arthritis, excision in almost all cases, is advisable. Under six and after forty the mortality is much greater than at intervening ages. Resection of the hip will be more frequently performed, the mortality being 25 per cent., when left alone 50 per cent.

An interesting discussion followed in which Drs. Muir, Macdonald, Stewart and Somers took part.

Dr. J. F. Black read a very interesting and lengthy paper on "American Medical Institutions," being notes taken in his recent visit to the hospitals of Montreal, New York and Philadelphia.