

it may be, gentle manual effort fails; but the practice that would allow a patient to injure himself or herself, or others rather than have exceptions to a praiseworthy sentiment, is a method neither distinguished by discretion nor judgment."

In the treatment of epilepsy, nitrite of amyl has been used in upwards of 25 cases with very good success. It was given in most of the cases in half-drop doses, three times a day, and it was observed that when it was omitted for a day or two the fits returned with their usual violence and frequency. On the whole, the experiments with this new remedy show that it is of considerable service, and worthy of a more extended trial.

MORIALITY OF TORONTO FOR 1877.—During the past year the city was notably free from disease; there were no epidemics, except a few temporary occurrences of scarlet fever and a few cases of diphtheria. The total number of deaths was 1,850, which represents an annual death rate of 26.42 per thousand, estimating the population at 70,000. The annual death rate for 1876 was 28 per thousand, showing a decrease of 1.58 per thousand for 1877. This is attributable no doubt, in some measure, to the increased drainage of the city. The diseases which caused the greatest number of deaths were—debility, 187; consumption, 173; diarrhoea, 168; inflammations, 154; scarlet fever, 85; brain diseases, 81; heart disease, 57; bronchitis, 53; convulsions, 46; typhoid fever, 41; croup, 26; whooping cough, 7, &c. It is to be regretted that the large number of 488 were unclassified, and it is to be hoped that in future more care will be taken in this matter by medical men and others, when certifying to the cause of death.

HYDROBROMIC ACID AND SEDATIVE DOSES OF QUININE.—Dr. Boyd of Ogdensburg, N. Y., has been using hydrobromic acid and sedative doses of quinine for the past six months in the treatment of typhoid fever, and has come to the conclusion that it is superior to any other treatment. He generally commences by giving from v. to viij. grs. of hydrarg. chlor. mit. After the bowels have moved two or three times, he commences with the acid and quinine, i. e. if the temperature is high—say 102 or 103—by giving a tablespoonful of the following

medicine: Acid. Hydrobromic, $\bar{3}$ iss., Quiniae Sulph. $\bar{3}$ i., Aquæ $\bar{3}$ iss. Of this mixture he gives one tablespoonful every two hours until four doses are taken; if the temperature is not lowered from 12 to 14 hours after administering the first dose, he generally repeats the doses as above, until the temperature falls. He has given on an average from 20 to 30 grains a day, without the patient complaining of that abominable ringing noise in the ears, and very seldom administers opiates. Headache generally ceases after the patient is fully under the influence of the medicine, and does not return with proper diet and hygiene.

Hydrobromic acid may be prepared extemporaneously as follows:

R Pot. Bromidi $\bar{3}$ x.
Acid Tartaric $\bar{3}$ xij.
Aquæ $\bar{3}$ xl.

Mix, and allow it to stand until precipitation ceases. The results of the reaction are the formation of bitartrate of potassium (cream of tartar), which is nearly insoluble, and sufficiently pure hydrobromic acid diluted with water, each fluid drachm of which contains ten grains of bromine.

GOITRE TREATED BY IODINE INJECTIONS.—In the *Journal de Medicine* for November an article will be found in which the above named method of treating goitre is highly recommended. It is known as the method of Luton. By this method Dr. Luton has frequently produced cures which were rebellious to medical treatment. It consists in injecting into the centre of the tumor from 15 to 40 drops of tincture of iodine, officinal strength. In some instances morphine is added to relieve pain and irritation. The injections may be repeated every ten days. Luton met with but one case in which it failed—a vascular goitre. Morell McKenzie who has tested the remedy on a large scale, cured 59 out of 73 cases, diminished the size in 9, got no results in 3, and 2 patients gave up treatment.

THE ANATOMIST.—This is an etching of a picture of the same name exhibited at the centennial in Philadelphia, which attracted considerable attention. It is printed on white paper 12½ x 15 inches, and would make a very suitable picture for a physician's office. It may be had by addressing the LANCET office. Price \$1.